@issue

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Books inside

Review of "Power Lines: Two Years on South Africa's Borders" by Jason Carter, **E4**

Teresa K. Weaver on a gathering of librarians, **E4**

The Reading Room, on "Seabiscuit," **E5**

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"I hear a lot of women saying, 'I'm not a feminist, but . . .' "

— Loretta Ross, National Center for Human Rights Education

Finishing feminism

It is the idea that women are equal to men politically, socially and economically.

Most Americans find this truth to be self-evident and advancing toward reality. It seems that many of the principles that feminists of the 1960s fought for are now part of our nation's fabric. And yet women still have not found equality.

With some of its most important objectives yet unrealized, is feminism over? Have opponents succeeded in demonizing women's activists to the point that they operate only in the margins? Or has the second wave simply given way to the third?

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution asked people from across the political spectrum to discuss the state of feminism. Their answers, excerpted from interviews with each, appear on **pages E6-8.**

File

Women did not earn the right to vote until 1920, when the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Continue fighting, both globally and locally

Glory Kilanko, a Nigerian who came to the United States five years ago, is founder of Women Watch Africa, which provides services for refugees and immigrants in Atlanta.

In the United States, women activists are convinced that not much has changed, that there's still a lot to do. . . . Globally, we are looking at the same thing. We're talking about women having equal opportunities. Being able to compete side by side with men. . . . If you look at the multinational corporations, how many of them are owned and run by women?

These areas are dominated by men. They control the economy. They control international politics. . . . We need to re-examine the whole question of how things have been done in the past. Let us redefine ourselves, our roles, our images, in the kind of society we really want to live in. Do we want to live in an oppressive society that relegates women to the background? Where they just say, 'OK, we'll make up a number, to recognize that women do exist, let's put one or two in this position,' you know. . . . We still have so much fighting to do, locally and globally.

"I think feminism is alive and well, and my students and I live it. We live and breathe what feminism has accomplished."

— Beth Reingold, associate professor of women's studies and political science at Emory University.

Women deceived by feminists

Tanya Ditty of Marietta is state director of Concerned Women For America.

Women are living longer, they're leading healthier lives and they're even making gains in the workplace. And while we applaud these statistics, we really feel that feminism is still in direct conflict with the traditional family — one man and one woman, married, and any children they have between them. Feminism puts women in a direct competition for the very thing that they desire the most, and that is to be able to stay home with their children and to have a safe and secure home with a loving husband and with their children. . . . We feel women have been deceived by the feminist movement to "go out and be all you can be" and to be equal to men, when that puts such stress on their lives.

Top Stories, E2-3 / Ezzard, E3 / Tucker, Wooten, E10 / Letters, E9 / Opinions, E11

NICK ARROYO / Staff

Dr. **John Dull,** a Life College graduate, makes a spinal adjustment on **Tama Stauffer,** an employee and patient. Dull primarily treats back pain and refers patients to medical doctors.

Camps of chiropractic field grow further apart

By PATRICIA GUTHRIE
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and DAVID WAHLBERG
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Like the chronic pain of a bad back, controversy has consistently followed the chiropractic field.

From its beginnings a century ago, chiropractic techniques have been scorned by medical doctors who challenge many of chiropractors' basic claims. In recent years, chiropractors have split into two camps defined by how much good they believe they can wield through standard spinal manipulations.

Both sides agree that relieving pressure on nerves exiting the spine allows the body to return to a more balanced state. But while some chiropractors believe spinal manipulation should primarily be used to alleviate pain, others adhere to the more controversial belief that chiropractic techniques can correct problems with internal organs, and even be used to treat allergies and infectious diseases.

➤ On one side of the fence are practitioners who generally stick to using chiropractic techniques for back and neck pain abatement, and to adjust misaligned spines. Known as "mixers" in the field, they constitute the vast majority of practicing chiropractors and typically blend the principles of chiropractic with other health modes, ranging from conventional medicine to herbalism to orthopaedic and other medical doctors. They tend to take a holistic look at the patient and often make suggestions for healthier lifestyles, including such things as nutrition and exercise. They also rely on standard scientific research for proof of claims.

➤ On the other side are the much smaller percentage of chiropractors who see themselves carrying on the pure chiropractic tradition of its founder, D.D. Palmer. Palmer believed that the basic cause of disease was interference with the body's nerve supply and that healing could come from correcting so-called "subluxations" through hands-on manipulation of the spine. This group is often called the "straights" or fundamentalists because they are more apt to use spinal manipulation for more than just back and neck pain.

"Chiropractic has been around for 100 years. If the adjustments actually cured all forms of disease, we would have seen it by now."

DR. JOHN DULL
Atlanta chiropractor

Some "straights" may not believe in medical diagnoses of conditions, such as high blood pressure, ulcers and allergies. Some don't think childhood vaccinations are necessary.

Sid Williams, the embattled founder and president of Life University in Marietta, adheres to the less common old-school beliefs, chiropractic experts say.

"Williams is as straight as they come," said William Jarvis, professor of public health and preventive medicine at Loma Linda University in California. "His view is the original view, that the life force is mediated through the spine and these subjective subluxations impede the body's natural healing ability. If you keep the spine adjusted, the life force flows freely and the body can heal itself."

Georgia has about 4,800 licensed chiropractors. About 1,500 to 1,800 of them are actually practicing, roughly 1,000 in metro Atlanta.

➤ Please see **SCHISMS, E3**

➤ **ALSO INSIDE:** Q & A on chiropractic, **E3**

Top Stories / World & Nation

MIDDLE EAST

1. More violence

President Bush put on hold his peace plan calling for a Palestinian state after more suicide bombings rocked Israel. Israel then retaliated again, sending tanks into West Bank cities. Yasser Arafat went on Palestinian television to condemn the bombings.

WILDFIRES

2. Damage spreads

A wildfire burned Pinedale, Ariz., and forced another evacuation in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The biggest wildfire in Colorado history also continued to burn (right); U.S. Forest Service worker Terry Barton pleaded innocent to charges she set it.

SHAUN STANLEY / Associated Press

THE COURTS

3. Executions limited

The Constitution bars the execution of mentally retarded offenders, the U.S. Supreme Court declared in a landmark death penalty ruling based on the majority's view that a "national consensus" now rejects such executions as excessive and inappropriate.

UTAH KIDNAPPING

4. Teen still missing

Salt Lake City authorities questioned Bret Michael Edumunds in the disappearance of 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart. The 26-year-old drifter remained in serious condition at a West Virginia hospital, where he was arrested after an apparent drug overdose.

PLUTONIUM

5. Cargo can proceed

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges' last-minute attempt to stop shipment of plutonium from the Rocky Flats facility in Colorado to the Savannah River Site near Aiken. A hearing was set for July 10.

By the numbers **70:** Hours per year Atlantans waste in traffic **$1,359:** Annual cost of fuel and time per motorist

VOICE OF ATLANTA

Suffering's purpose tough to pin down

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."
C.S. LEWIS
"The Problem of Pain"

The problem of pain found its way into the Voice of Atlanta this week.

What is the point of suffering? Nearly a third of Atlantans answering the VOA questionnaire say that "we wouldn't know joy if we didn't know suffering." Another 22 percent say suffering has no point, and 21.5 percent say suffering is intended to make people stronger.

The first choice struck a chord with Ella Tepp, a 40-year-old travel consultant in Alpharetta and a Voice of Atlanta respondent.

"I feel like people suffer because, until you have any adversity, you don't realize what good is," Tepp said. "You can't have happiness without sadness or struggling."

The results of the questionnaire break down in interesting ways. People over 45, who generally have seen more suffering than people in the 18-29 age group, were more than twice as likely than the younger group to say that suffering has no point. White respondents were almost three times more likely to say that than black respondents. And men and women were also divided on this point (see accompanying table).

Rather than simply accepting the inevitable reality of suffering, humans often struggle to find meaning in it, says Gail O'Day, professor of preaching and New Testament at Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

This can be a difficult search that often ends in the wrong place.

"The problem is that when you start to think that God actually causes suffering," said O'Day, whose research focuses on the Gospel of John. "That's just another way of trying to give it meaning, too. I don't think it's the right way.

". . . Suffering, particularly in the sense of illness or death — it just feels like the world is out of control," she said. Searching for meaning in the experience is a "way of trying to put things back in order. One of the most common causes you hear is, 'It's all for a good purpose.' I think we don't actually want to acknowledge that lots of times life is messy. And it just is."

O'Day, 47, said she urges her preaching students to be realistic with their flocks.

"I want to make sure that whatever they preach holds true in the face of the world's suffering. Whatever Gospel they have, whatever good news they bring, has to be good news in the face of the realities of the world's suffering.

"One of the things that's at the heart of Christianity is that, when Jesus Christ became human, it was in some ways identifying with the whole span of human nature, which includes suffering. And it was a way of acknowledging that God knows our suffering, and that's one way of giving it meaning. To know that it's not unnoticed."

The Voice of Atlanta is an opinion research tool on the Internet. It is not believed to be as accurate as a scientific poll because respondents volunteer to take part, rather than be selected at random. In this latest sampling, 1,005 metro Atlanta residents completed our online questionnaire. To find out more, or to join the Voice of Atlanta panel, go to ajc.com/voiceofatlanta/

What is the point of suffering in this life?

	All	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45+	Democrat	Republican
We wouldn't know joy if we didn't know suffering	32%	29%	34%	40%	33%	28%	35%	35%
It has no point	22%	27%	18%	12%	20%	27%	24%	14%
Suffering is intended to make people stronger	22%	19%	24%	29%	23%	18%	19%	26%
Something else	15%	15%	15%	9%	15%	16%	14%	15%
Don't know	10%	11%	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	11%

Percentages may not total 100 because of rounding.
The Voice of Atlanta is prepared and analyzed by the Marketing Workshop Inc.

Banishment defenders put out by criticism of punishment

MARTHA EZZARD
mezzard@ajc.com

Carl Wayne Walker, a middle-age, mentally ill man, wants to go home to Americus where he was raised. But five years ago, Walker was "banished" from the six-county Southwestern Georgia Judicial Circuit as a condition of a probationary sentence he received for a drug offense.

Walker's aunt, Wilma Hawkins, who raised him from the time he was 3 months old, still calls him her son. She says Walker has been diagnosed as schizophrenic and lives in Florida on a disability check he receives. But he's lonely, she says. While admitting that Walker "did street drugs for a while" and has a record of being in trouble with the law, she doesn't understand how banishment can do anything but make his mental illness worse.

"I don't feel it's going to help anyone if he can't see his family and his friends," she said.

But many prosecutors and judges in Georgia view banishment as an alternative to jail or even a rehabilitation tool. R. Rucker Smith, chief judge of the Southwestern circuit, said he imposes it to protect a victim in a domestic violence or a child molestation case, or to get a young person away from running with a bad crowd.

"I have a conversation with the person first, to see if he has relatives living somewhere else in the state," Smith said.

Richard Nettum, an assistant Sumter County prosecutor, says he's never seen local judges impose banishment on someone who's a native. "If they're not from here and get into trouble, why shouldn't they be sent away?" he asked.

Some civil rights advocates have complained that banishment smacks of the days of segregation, when black people were run clear out of some Georgia counties. But Nettum, who grew up in South Dakota and moved to Georgia in 1972, says race has nothing to do with it: "We always hear that, because we've still got a lot of old white men's chickens down here that come home to roost — from when white men didn't behave right."

Houston County District Attorney Kelly Burke keeps a banishment registry on his Web site (houstonda.org) "We're up to 142," he says proudly, ignoring defense lawyers' criticism that he's just sending problems to other counties. Burke dismisses race and poverty as factors, noting that banishment dates to Greek and Roman civilizations. He thinks it's particularly useful for those involved in drugs in a small town. "Here's my theory," he said. "They know the landscape, where the buyers and the police hang out. I'm hoping they'll learn a different lifestyle if they get to a different part of the state."

Ever since 1877, Article I of the Georgia Constitution has prohibited "banishment beyond the limits of the state" and "whipping" as punishments for crime. But Georgia courts have otherwise upheld banishment, though it's not mentioned in the state criminal code.

"It certainly is a bit medieval," said Georgia State University law professor Roy Sobelson. He noted that Georgia's criminal laws and penalties are defined in the state statutes. "That puts people on notice," he said. "It seems only fair that since we don't have common-law crimes that we ought not have common-law punishments (like banishment.)"

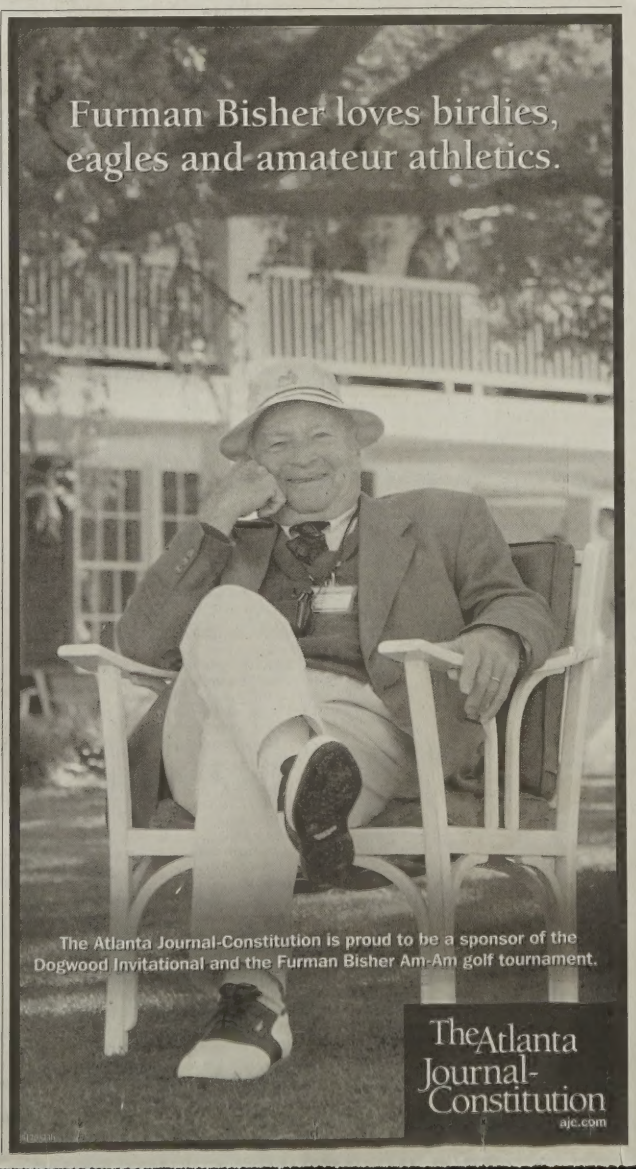
"It's ridiculous to eliminate a useful tool merely because it's politically correct to do it."
R. RUCKER SMITH
Chief judge of the Southwestern circuit

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard says he's only seen banishment ordered once and that was a case involving protection of a child. He acknowledges that a civil restraining order might accomplish the same protection. Howard says banishment can be abused and suggested guidelines to limit its use. But Smith's view is different: "The courts have been guidelined to death," said the South Georgia judge. "It's ridiculous to eliminate a useful tool merely because it's politically correct to do it."

Judge Walter McMillan, chief judge of the Middle Judicial Circuit (in central Georgia) is in Smith's camp. He had no problem sending a "banished" 33-year-old African-American man, Irving Cyril Higgs, straight to jail last year simply for showing up again in Emanuel County.

But Wilma Hawkins, who says her son sneaked back to Americus recently just to see her, thinks banishment doesn't work to anyone's good. She's angrier than ever about it. "Two days later, here comes a sheriff's car on our street," she said, "and sure enough, keeping a lookout for Carl."

Indeed, if banishment works so well, why don't more states use it? Burke has a ready answer: "They're not as enlightened as Georgia is," he said.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Top stories / World & Nation

This week

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

6. Delays in Europe

Air traffic controllers went on a temporary strike over a plan to unify Europe's disjointed skies, canceling 7,700 flights over France and stranding passengers across the continent. A one-day general strike in Spain caused more delays.

AFGHANISTAN

7. New leaders in

Afghanistan's grand council swore in Hamid Karzai as president and approved a new government to begin the long process of rebuilding a nation shattered after 23 years of war. Some delegates complained the council failed to dislodge powerful warlords.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

8. Limits urged

A government advisory panel came out against vaccinating all Americans against smallpox, instead proposing that the vaccine be given to special teams of people in each state who would be designated the first to respond in case of a bioterrorism attack.

WORLD CUP

9. U.S. eliminated

For the first time since the World Cup began in 1930, the United States soccer team made it to the quarterfinals, where it lost to Germany, 1-0. To get to the third round of the quadrennial event, the U.S. team beat neighbor Mexico 2-0.

JEWISH LEADERS PROTEST

10. Turner under fire

Ted Turner tried to clarify his comment to The Guardian newspaper blaming Israelis and Palestinians for Mideast violence after Jewish leaders protested. Bishop Desmond Tutu drew similar protests for an article criticizing Jewish settlements.

➤ **Monday:** European Union environment ministers meet in Luxembourg.

➤ **Wednesday:** Group of Eight leaders, including President Bush, meets in Kananaskis, Alberta.

➤ **Wednesday:** OPEC meets in Vienna, Austria.

➤ **Thursday:** Southern Republican Leadership Conference in Charlotte.

By the numbers **212:** Roy Barnes campaign contributors appointed to state boards **$1.54 million:** How much they've given

CHIROPRACTIC

ANDY SHARP / Staff

The debate over basic chiropractic theory is at the center of the Life University controversy, experts said. The school's accreditation was revoked this month.

'Schisms within profession have gone on a long time'

➤ Continued from E1

To become licensed, they must graduate from an accredited school and pass a national board exam. Annually, 20 hours of coursework is needed to maintain their license.

"Neuromuscular relief is about 85 percent of what chiropractors do," said Dr. Arch Culbreth, a Savannah chiropractor and president of the Georgia Chiropractic Association.

Culbreth said he wasn't surprised when the Council of Chiropractic Education revoked Life University's accreditation this month.

"We hate to say we told you so but we knew this was coming for a long time," Culbreth said. "We've had some real problems with that college. They have the most students who've defaulted on student loans and their standards for accepting students are generally lower."

The controversy over basic chiropractic theory is at the center of the Life University controversy, experts said.

The Council on Chiropractic Education "is trying to bring chiropractic into the mainstream," Jarvis said. "It's the progressives against the historical chiropractors."

The debate is not new. But it's definitely getting louder.

"These schisms within the chiropractic profession are deep and have gone on a long, long time," said Paul Shekelle, director of the evidence-based practice center at the Rand Corp. "The pragmatists view the straight guys as people who are impeding the progress of the profession toward wider acceptance. The straights think the pragmatists are selling out the practice, that they really want to be mini-physicians."

Not all alumni of Life University adhere to Williams' views. Dr. John Dull, who graduated from Life in 1981 and practices in Atlanta, said he left the "straight" philosophy behind when he started treating patients.

Dull, who considers himself a "mixer," primarily treats back pain, combining spinal manipulations with ice, ultrasound, electrical stimulation and other therapies. He frequently refers patients to medical doctors. He told a woman who recently came in with a bruised and swollen forearm after falling on the sidewalk to check with a medical doctor for possible vascular injury.

"Chiropractic has been around for 100 years," Dull said. "If the adjustments actually cured all forms of disease, we would have seen it by now."

The irony of the debate is that chiropractors are much more accepted today by the once-skeptical public. It's the most popular form of alternative medicine, health insurance and Medicaid cover visits (for neuromuscular relief only) and dozens of medical studies have proven spinal manipulation works for acute lower-back pain.

"There's proof that with certain types of back or neck pain, chiropractic care can be helpful. So it's purely spine-related," said Dr. David Hubbell of the Spine Center at Emory University and an assistant professor of orthopaedics.

More and more, referrals come both ways between chiropractors and medical doctors, Hubbell said. Chiropractors will send patients his way if they think they need prescription pain medication, cortisone shots or sophisticated X-ray exams, such as MRIs.

Q & A

Q: What is chiropractic?

A: From Greek words meaning "done by hand," chiropractic is a system of diagnosis and treatment based on the idea that good health stems from a well-functioning nervous system and a properly aligned spine. Chiropractors manipulate and adjust the spinal column to release pressure on nerves; they don't perform surgery or prescribe drugs. Some believe their manipulations can treat a wide range of medical conditions, while others say the adjustments are primarily helpful in back pain and other musculoskeletal problems.

Q: When did it start?

A: Most trace chiropractic's roots to 1895, when merchant D.D. Palmer adjusted an upper vertebra of a deaf Iowa janitor's neck and claimed to have restored his hearing. Two years later, Palmer founded Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, considered the "Fountainhead" of the practice.

Q: What happens during a chiropractor visit?

A: The patient generally lies on a special table, facing up or down, depending on the problem. The chiropractor feels along the spinal column to determine where it is out of alignment and applies quick bursts of pressure to realign the bones and free blocked nerves. The adjustments generally make a cracking sound but don't hurt, and the number of adjustments varies each visit. Many chiropractors also use ultrasound, electrical stimulation or other therapies to ease pain, and some incorporate exercise, nutrition, herbal remedies and other approaches.

Q: How much do chiropractor visits cost?

A: Fees per visit vary, but they generally run $50 to $75, although initial visits and X-rays may be more. About 82 percent of major health insurance plans cover some costs of chiropractic care.

Q: How many chiropractic schools are there today?

A: There are 16 in the United States. Life University in Marietta, with 2,600 students in its chiropractic program and about 700 pursuing other degrees, is the largest. It lost its accreditation June 10, but the college plans an appeal.

Q: Does the state regulate the chiropractic industry?

A: Yes. The Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners, one of 14 state medical boards, licenses chiropractors, investigates complaints and issues disciplinary actions. For more information, call 478-207-1686 or go to www.sos.state.ga.us/plb/chiro.

Q: How many people seek chiropractic treatment?

A: About 27 million people, roughly 10 percent of the American population, visit a chiropractor at least once a year, according to the American Chiropractic Association.

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ALL WEEK ONLINE

Mike Luckovich cartoons

Tips on getting your opinion published

Who's who on the editorial board

Express your opinion in online polls

Read previous columns by Jim Wooten and Cynthia Tucker

TODAY'S NEWS SHOWS

Guest lineups for today:

■ **9 a.m., CBS, "Sunday Morning."** 50467. **www.cbsnews.com** and follow prompts.

■ **9:30 a.m., WAGA, "Georgia Gang."** 51399.

■ **10 a.m., Fox, "Fox News Sunday."** Palestinian Cabinet minister Nabil Shaath; Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham (D-Fla.). 84776. **www.foxnews.com/sunday/**

■ **10 a.m., NBC, "Meet the Press."** House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.); Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.). 24318. **www.mtp.msnbc.com**

■ **10:30 a.m., CBS, "Face the Nation."** Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.); Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer; Palestinian official Nabil Shaath. 88405. **www.cbsnews.com**

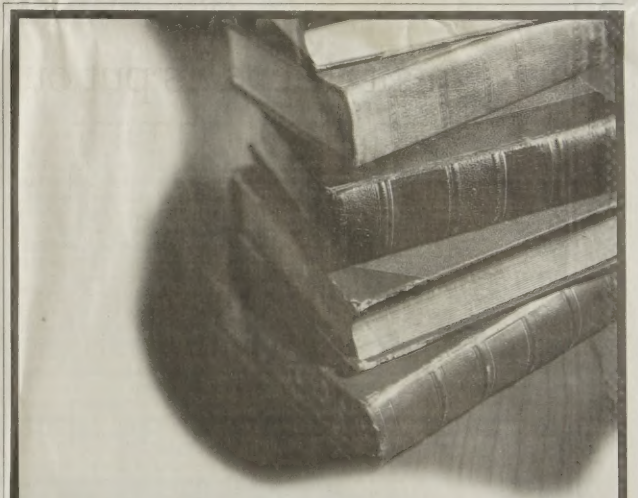
■ **11 a.m., ABC, "This Week With Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts."** Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham (D-Fla.); Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.); Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill; Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah. 17080. **abcnews.go.com/onair/thisweek/thisweekindex.html**

■ **11 a.m., WXIA, "Sunday Morning Extra."** 84641

■ **Noon, CNN, "Late Edition With Wolf Blitzer."** House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas); Afghan President Hamid Karzai; Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.); Rep. Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.). 422115. **www.cnn.com/cnn/programs/late.edition/**

■ **1 p.m., GPTV, "Georgia Week in Review."**

■ **1:30 p.m., GPTV, "Georgia Business Report."**



Borders Buckhead and the Georgia Center for the Book welcome author

Jim Grimsley

Monday, June 24
6 p.m. - Discussion of *"Dream Boy"*
7 p.m. - Mr. Grimsley reads from his new book *"Boulevard"*

Don't miss your chance to meet Jim Grimsley and hear him read from his new book, *"Boulevard."* Mr. Grimsley's novel *"Dream Boy"* is currently a Georgia Center for the Book's "Georgia Top 25" selection. Please join us Monday, June 24, at Borders Buckhead, 3637 Peachtree Road NE, 404-237-0707.

GEORGIA CENTER for the BOOK

BORDERS BOOKS • MUSIC • CAFE

Borders Books & Music is a proud sponsor of the **Georgia Center for the Book.** Visit any Georgia Borders location and browse the Georgia Center for the Book's "Georgia Top 25" display.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
ajc.com

More Online

Look for expanded features and reviews at **ajc.com/opinion/books**. This week:

➤ It is the job of novelists to revisit historic occurrences and lend them shape and texture, to capture what they mean on a personal level. This is exactly what Terrence Cheng has done in "Sons of Heaven," his superb first novel about Tiananmen Square. A review of **"Sons of Heaven,"** only online.

BOOKS

Writers on writing

"I need the daily ritual and devotion of storytelling to keep me awake, to help me pay attention . . ."

MELANIE RAE THON,
QUOTED IN FIVE POINTS LITERARY MAGAZINE

Reading Atlanta

Top sellers at Bookears, Perimeter:

➤ **Mortal Prey** by John Sandford

➤ **Courting Trouble** by Lisa Scottoline

➤ **The Nanny Diaries** by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus

➤ **Good to Great** by Jim Collins

➤ **Atonement** by Ian McEwan

Experiencing a racial divide

Peace Corps volunteer finds S. African, Southern parallels

By MONI BASU
mbasu@ajc.com

Power lines crisscross Lochiel, a tiny South African town 12 miles northwest of the Swaziland border. Poor black residents lean up against the poles, walk around them and lead cows to eat the grass that grows in their shadow.

Despite the lines, though, Lochiel has no electricity. The power belongs to a different South Africa — one that is affluent, prosperous and white. The lines that run along the lightly inclined hills connect one white town with another.

"The power lines, even though they ran right through the town I lived in, were like a border between the two South Africas," said Jason Carter, 26, who completed a two-year stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Lochiel. "The contrast was amazing."

The breadth of South Africa's racial divide — even after years of black majority rule — is captured poignantly in Carter's book, "Power Lines." Whites enjoy the comforts of America, but black South Africans, Carter finds, still endure punishing poverty.

The book chronicles Carter's "crazy" journey from the world of McDonald's and Holiday Inns to one of living in huts and carrying water from the river. Along the way, he finds people, both black and white, willing to heal age-old wounds.

Carter, a grandson of former President Jimmy Carter, grew up inspired by the experiences of his great-grandmother. Lillian Carter turned 70 as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Indian factory town of Vikhroli.

In the introduction to "Power Lines," Jimmy Carter shares a letter written by his mother to her family in Plains in 1968.

"I didn't dream that in this remote corner of the world, so far away from the people and material things that I considered so necessary, I would discover what life is really about," she wrote. "Sharing yourself with others, and accepting their love for you, is the most precious gift of all."

Three decades later, Jason Carter was part of the second group ever to serve in South Africa for the Peace Corps, which marked its 40th anniversary last week.

"Her experiences provided strength on one hand and on the other, there was a fear of total humiliation," Carter said in an interview.

Jimmy Carter had one piece of advice for his grandson: Keep a journal. The younger Carter did just that, staying awake on restless nights documenting details about this "very different, very complex place." Those private pages ultimately became this book.

"To be honest, you have to get some of this stuff off your chest," Carter said. "And sometimes there is no one to talk to. Granddaddy has 40,000 pages of journal writings from his time in the White House. He has written every day since then."

As a Peace Corps volunteer, Carter found himself uniquely able to go back and forth from rich, white neighborhoods in Johannesburg and Pretoria to Lochiel and its surroundings, grappling with the guilt and frustrations that stem from straddling contrasting societies.

"The funny thing is that the way white South Africans live is so recognizable to me," said Carter, now a law student at the University of Georgia. But it was in Lochiel that Carter found himself.

"In many ways, Lochiel is like Plains — far from everything, where a sense of community is very strong," Carter said. "People on the outside wouldn't look at it as a place of strength. We underestimate little towns like that."

Among Lochiel's 200 families, Carter discovered a "phenomenal sense of purpose" in the post-apartheid struggle. The new South Africa reminded him of the New South. It was simply a matter of degree. "Apartheid ended eight years ago in South Africa and 38 years ago in Georgia," he said. "But you still have folks who live their lives as though other people who lead a . . . much poorer life don't exist."

Carter's chief assignment was to help upgrade Lochiel's underperforming schools. He found the teachers afraid to ask questions or to speak up. He found intelligent people constantly pressing him for advice. They asked him everything from how to fix a car to what a drum major's uniform looked like. In one chapter, Carter's frustration at apartheid-induced blind spots becomes apparent.

"Look! I don't know. White people don't know everything!" he blurts to one of the schoolteachers.

Earlier this month, Carter returned to Lochiel after helping his grandfather on a Habitat for Humanity project in Durban. Among other changes, he found that his hero, a woman nicknamed Gogo, had built a preschool.

"It was so exciting to me," Carter said. "The fear you have in the Peace Corps is that as soon as you leave, what you were doing is going to run out. But that has not been the case in Lochiel. They are going strong."

Moni Basu writes about international affairs for the Journal-Constitution.

MEMOIR

Power Lines: Two Years on South Africa's Borders. *By Jason Carter. National Geographic. $26. 278 pages.*

MEET THE AUTHOR

➤ Jason Carter will sign books at 7 p.m. Monday at Chapter 11 bookstore at Ansley Mall (1544 Piedmont Ave., 404-872-7986). Also, he'll sign books at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Barnes & Noble in Athens (3650 Atlanta Highway, 706-354-1195).

W.A. BRIDGES JR. / Staff

Jason Carter, grandson of former President Jimmy Carter, and South African boys enjoy a holiday from the classroom in 1999.

The buzz is positive as librarians embrace challenges

"You bring the barbecue, I'll bring the wine."

— **Singer-songwriter Matraca Berg**

TERESA K. WEAVER
tweaver@ajc.com

The pop-culture image of a librarian — a gray-haired, stern woman, forever shushing noisemakers real and exaggerated — is an enduring stereotype. But just try to sell it to the 26,000 people at last week's convention of the American Library Association.

Sure, the vast majority of the convention-goers were women. And, forgive me for noticing, the average age looked to be in the neighborhood of half a century. Facts back me up: About 79 percent of public librarians are women, according to the ALA, as are 92 percent of school librarians and 68 percent of college librarians. And nearly one-fourth of this country's 125,000 librarians will reach retirement age by 2009.

But the stereotype seems to end there. For every librarian sitting through a discussion of "User Authentication Strategies in Multi-Institutional Environments," another was clapping and singing along with the Indigo Girls at the scholarship bash. (Indigo Girl Emily Saliers' mother, Jane, is a children's librarian and legendary storyteller for the Atlanta-Fulton system.)

CURTIS COMPTON / Staff

Nashville singer **Matraca Berg** (from left), authors **Jill McCorkle** and **Lee Smith** and singer **Marshall Chapman** teamed for "Songs and Stories From Good Ol' Girls" at the American Library Association convention in Atlanta.

One of the most popular events at the weeklong convention was a rollicking display of wit and wordplay dubbed "Songs and Stories From Good Ol' Girls." Irrepressible novelists Lee Smith and Jill McCorkle shared the stage with Nashville pals Matraca Berg and Marshall Chapman for a sweetly irreverent session of readings and songs.

The synergy between the literary and the musical made it difficult to tell who was enjoying the show more: the 500 librarians in the audience or the four women onstage. Regardless, it seemed an appropriate celebration of the power of words, written or sung.

And at its most basic level, the gathering at the Georgia World Congress Center was all about words. Filmmaker Michael Moore, author of the No. 1 best-selling "Stupid White Men," was on hand to praise a librarian for starting the buzz about his book. Art critic Robert Hughes and social critic Barbara Ehrenreich ("Nickel and Dimed") were there to testify for libraries, for intellectual freedom, for the First Amendment — "all the things that are high on our agenda all the time," says John W. Berry, outgoing president of the American Library Association.

The agenda is clear, if daunting. In addition to recruiting a new generation of librarians (aided by a $10 million infusion from President Bush, husband of a former librarian) and raising salaries (which start at about $38,000 and require a master's degree), the ALA is putting a new emphasis on attracting men and minorities into the profession.

Keeping up with technology remains a challenge as well, with all of its good and bad ramifications. The ALA recently fended off a clunky federal mandate to place pornography-blocking filters on all public library terminals, but the delicate task of protecting children from inappropriate material without infringing on anyone's rights is far from settled. "That issue won't go away," Berry says, "because (a), it's too complex, and (b), it's too emotional."

Beyond all the important business of books, the librarians' convention offered a terrific opportunity to hear from some of today's most intriguing writers. Hometown heavyweights Terry Kay, Pearl Cleage and Jim Grimsley were there, along with Manil Suri ("The Death of Vishnu"), Geraldine Brooks ("Year of Wonders"), Terrence Cheng ("Sons of Heaven") and many others.

Among the panelists for a session on Southern writing was John Biguenet, author of last year's "The Torturer's Apprentice," a beautifully edgy collection of stories, and a new novel, "Oyster," a gothic tale of family feuds and hard labor set in 1957 Louisiana. A translator and an English professor at Loyola University in New Orleans, Biguenet wears his erudition casually.

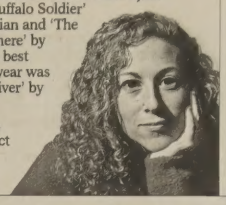
"College students today know a lot about storytelling," he says. "But what they know they've learned from television and films. It's rare to find a student who was a voracious reader as a child. . . .

"When I was a child growing up in New Orleans, in the summertime it really was too hot to do anything except play canasta and read books until dark fell," he adds. "That's what everybody did. Daytime television in those days wasn't sufficient to hold anyone's interest. And because of the public library system, books were the cheapest and most fulfilling kind of entertainment."

The price is still right. And there's always hope that kids will find their way back to the library.

But for now, a moment of silence. The librarians have left the city.

What I'm Reading



"Because I have three kids, I have to read during the 15 minutes I take a bath. I just finished 'The Buffalo Soldier' by Chris Bohjalian and 'The Way to Somewhere' by Angie Day. The best book I read all year was 'Peace Like a River' by Leif Enger."

— **Jodi Picoult,** author of "Perfect Match"

The Literary Scene

➤ **Danielle Dardashti** signs "The Jewish Family Fun Book" at 4 p.m. today at Chapter 11 at Peachtree Battle shopping center. 2345 Peachtree Road. 404-237-7199.

➤ **Jim Grimsley** signs "Boulevard" at 7 p.m. Monday at Borders Books. 3637 Peachtree Road. 404-237-0707.

➤ "An Evening With **Joseph Kanon**" at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the 14th Street Playhouse, Stage 2. 173 14th St. N.E. Tickets, $10, are available at the Woodruff Arts Center box office (404-733-5000) and at Outwrite Bookstore (404-607-0082).

➤ **Elizabeth Jeffett** signs "The Silent Partners" at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Chapter 11 at Peachtree Battle shopping center. 2345 Peachtree Road. 404-237-7199.

➤ **Tina McElroy Ansa** signs "You Know Better" at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Chapter 11 at Northlake Mall (770-414-9288). Also, she'll sign books at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Chapter 11 at Ansley Mall (404-872-7986).

➤ **Elizabeth Musser** signs "The Swan House" at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Chapter 11 at Peachtree Battle shopping center. 2345 Peachtree Road. 404-237-7199.

➤ **Karla Drenner** signs "One" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Barnes & Noble, Buckhead. 2900 Peachtree Road. 404-261-7747.

➤ **Cecil O. Kemp Jr.** signs "The Secret Meeting Place" at 7 p.m. Thursday at Barnes & Noble, Cumberland. 2952 Cobb Parkway. 770-953-0966.

➤ **Jamie Weisman** signs "As I Live and Breathe" at 7 p.m. Thursday at Chapter 11 at Emory Commons. 2091 N. Decatur Road. 404-325-1505.

➤ **Christine Young-Robinson** signs "Isra the Butterfly Gets Caught for Show and Tell" 1-3 p.m. Saturday at Books-a-Million at Discover Mills. 5900 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville. 678-847-5115.

THE READING ROOM: A GUIDE FOR BOOK CLUBS / GREG CHANGNON

How a storied racehorse captured America's attention

➤ **Seabiscuit: An American Legend.** *By Laura Hillenbrand. Ballantine Books. $16 paperback.*

Laura Hillenbrand's rip-roaring biography of one of the greatest thoroughbreds is a superbly written story of underdogs, long shots and unlikely heroes. With a vivid cast of characters that includes a devoted trainer, a daredevil jockey and a flamboyant owner, this marvelous slice of history is not only a celebration of the sport of horse racing, but a miraculous testament to the resiliency of the American character.

➤ Although he never participated in a Triple Crown event, Seabiscuit grabbed more national newspaper coverage in 1938 than Roosevelt, Mussolini or Hitler. His final race, the 1940 Santa Anita Handicap, attracted a crowd of 78,000. Why was Seabiscuit so successful in stealing the attention, and the imagination, of a nation lost in the waning years of the Depression?

By the end of the 1930s, the mass production of affordable consoles and the wide availability of electricity allowed for nearly 90 percent of American homes to enjoy the pleasures of radio. The dramatic narration of horse racing was ideal for broadcasting, and the newly re-legalized pastime of wagering provoked a renewed interest in the sport. Discuss why Seabiscuit's unique history touched a weary audience eager to endorse a winner.

➤ Seabiscuit, a lazy, overweight horse with a ragged gallop and a tendency to lose focus while racing, became an unexpected champion. Despite a terribly uneven race record early in his career, the Biscuit won over his future owner Charles Howard and trainer Tom Smith with his feisty spirit and intelligent eyes. Why were Howard and Smith so attracted to this fledgling racehorse? And how does Seabiscuit's unremarkable past echo that of Howard and Smith?

At 26, Howard left New York with 21 cents in his pocket and plans to open a bicycle repair shop in San Francisco. At the same time, Smith was idling away his time training horses for a circus show. Discuss how Howard's "weakness for lost causes" created an improbable team that took the racing world by storm.

➤ Red Pollard, a perpetually broke, half-blind jockey with a penchant for booze and poetry, was the final piece of the Seabiscuit partnership. After being severely injured in an accident at the track, Pollard fell in love with his nurse, Agnes Conlon. Horrifying her affluent family, Agnes married Pollard, mostly because the eccentric jockey was a "liberation from herself." What was it about the life of a jockey that produced so many wild characters?

For the book's epigraph, the author offers a quote from Hemingway: "Nobody ever lives their life all the way up except bullfighters." Jockeys live equally dangerous lives, balancing 8 feet high on galloping horses moving at nearly 40 mph. Think about the hardships of a jockey's gig, from working without a union to the bizarre rituals of making weight.

➤ In the paperback edition, Hillenbrand tells us that what she sought to accomplish with "Seabiscuit" was "to re-create history with the texture of the novel." What are the qualities of Hillenbrand's nonfiction that make it read like good fiction?

Just as important as the historical facts of Seabiscuit's story are the tiny details that make every one of Hillenbrand's subjects — horse, owner, trainer, jockey — such rich, vibrant characters. Look closely at the chapter that covers the mesmerizing 1938 match race between War Admiral and the Biscuit and examine the vivid language the author uses to capture the thrill of the event.

➤ Throughout Seabiscuit's career, the men behind the horse often argued intensely, but they always managed to count on one another. And even when terrible injuries threatened to derail horse and jockey, Howard and Smith maintained an incredible faith in the rest of their team. How did this special connection survive even after the end of the Seabiscuit era?

Investigate the power of passion and perseverance in the Seabiscuit legend. Explore the importance of loyalty, courage and mutual respect to any great collaborative success.

Next month: "John Henry Days" by Colson Whitehead (Anchor Books, $14 paperback).

The professional risk of being optimistic

By TOMMY HAYS
For the Journal-Constitution

FICTION

The House on Belle Isle. *By Carrie Brown. Algonquin Books. $23.95. 248 pages.*

The verdict: *Daring and yet hopeful.*

To be a hopeful writer in today's dark literary world is a nervy thing to attempt. Many contemporary fiction writers seem to believe it is their job not to shed light on their characters, but to plunge them into the pitch-blackest dark and leave them there. These authors — and many literary critics — dismiss as naïve and sentimental any writing not fraught with angst, anguish or sarcastic wit. It has gotten so bad that a happy ending has become a daring thing to write.

And so it is a relief to come upon Carrie Brown's short story collection, "The House on Belle Isle," a book full of happy endings. That is not to say that Brown's writing is oppressively optimistic — far from it. In each of these seven stories, Brown fearlessly plumbs the depths of her characters, leading them into hard, even desperate situations: An artist has his hands crushed and cannot work; a woman with a heart murmur becomes obsessed with dying; a wife in her mid-60s mourns the death of her longtime husband; an 11-year-old boy's mother is taken away to a tuberculosis sanitorium.

Yet Brown, author of three novels ("Rose's Garden," "Lamb in Love" and "The Hatbox Baby"), never leaves her characters in despair. She stays with them, exploring the repercussions of the crises. She sees how her characters will act. And it is because her characters do act that hope is aroused. The action often can seem to have little or nothing to do with directly resolving the crisis. The woman with the heart murmur goes for a cold swim in the ocean, for instance. The widow catches an exotic bird and tries to find its owner. The boy worried about never seeing his mother again is driven to steal a parrot.

But in each of these stories, the action, however peripheral it seems, comes to embody something central to the character's life and leads to at least a suggestion of what might come next.

Algonquin Books

In **Carrie Brown's** short story collection, **"The House on Belle Isle,"** she isn't shy about challenging her characters.

In "The Correspondent," the longest story in the collection (55 pages), Lettie, a mother of two who has been left by her husband and who never worked outside the home, finds herself consumed with taking photographs in New York City.

The spring after Eben left, she began to take pictures almost every day. She walked Ginger to school in the mornings, and afterward, while Cleo was still young, she took Cleo out with her.

She had no idea how many photographs she took that way, Cleo riding ahead of her in the stroller. . . . She photographed indiscriminately — people, the buildings of the city, its landscape of stone and water and man and machine, all of it like a force of nature that was taking her by the shoulders, shaking her, turning her upside down.

It is one of Lettie's photographs that ultimately leads her to a career and to a man. While not all the stories in this collection have such a gradual extended shift in the main character's life, each has a shift of one magnitude or another, and always toward hope.

But this is hope on Carrie Brown's terms — an embodied belief, tempered by life's trials, that whatever comes next will be worth living.

Tommy Hays is the author of "In the Family Way" and "Sam's Crossing." He lives in Asheville, N.C.

➤ **ON THE WEB:** To read the first chapter, go to ajc.com/opinion/books.

Best sellers

HARDBACK FICTION

1. **"In This Mountain"** Jan Karon
2. **"Fire Ice"** Clive Cussler with Paul Kemprecos
3. **"The Shelters of Stone"** Jean M. Auel
4. **"The Nanny Diaries"** Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus
5. **"Mortal Prey"** John Sandford
6. **"The Wailing Wind"** Tony Hillerman
7. **"Daddy's Little Girl"** Mary Higgins Clark
8. **"The Emperor of Ocean Park"** Stephen L. Carter
9. **"The Summons"** John Grisham
10. **"Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones"** R.A. Salvatore

Claiming to be a descendant of the Romanovs, a mining tycoon tries to overthrow the Russian government.

HARDBACK NONFICTION

1. **"Stupid White Men"** Michael Moore
2. **"The Right Words at the Right Time"** edited by Marlo Thomas
3. **"Master of the Senate"** Robert Caro
4. **"A Mind at a Time"** Mel Levine
5. **"Firehouse"** David Halberstam
6. **"Odd Girl Out"** Rachel Simmons
7. **"Lucky Man"** Michael J. Fox
8. **"Medal of Honor"** Allen Mikaelian
9. **"Find Me"** Rosie O'Donnell
10. **"John Adams"** David McCullough

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author offers a portrait of a company that lost 12 of its 13 firefighters in the attacks on the World Trade Center.

ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISC.

1. **"Self Matters"** Phillip C. McGraw
2. **"Body for Life"** Bill Phillips with Michael D'Orso
3. **"Attack of the Clones: The Visual Dictionary"** David West Reynolds
4. **"The Healthy Kitchen"** Andrew Weil and Rosie Daley
5. **"I Hope You Dance"** Mark D. Sanders and Tia Sillers

Words of inspiration, with photographs, song lyrics and a CD.

PAPERBACK FICTION

1. **"Face the Fire"** Nora Roberts
2. **"Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood"** Rebecca Wells
3. **" 'P' Is for Peril"** Sue Grafton
4. **"Leap of Faith"** Danielle Steel
5. **"The Sum of All Fears"** Tom Clancy
6. **"Wicked Forest"** V.C. Andrews
7. **"Open Season"** Linda Howard
8. **"Seven Up"** Janet Evanovich
9. **"Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Mission of Honor"** created by Tom Clancy and Steve Pieczenik, written by Jeff Rovin
10. **"The Bourne Identity"** Robert Ludlum

Stephanie Plum, a bounty hunter, is assigned the task of finding a semiretired mobster.

PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. **"Seabiscuit"** Laura Hillenbrand
2. **"Ghost Soldiers"** Hampton Sides
3. **"Founding Brothers"** Joseph J. Ellis
4. **"Napalm & Silly Putty"** George Carlin
5. **"Nickel and Dimed"** Barbara Ehrenreich
6. **"The Botany of Desire"** Michael Pollan
7. **"A Child Called 'It' "** Dave Pelzer
8. **"The Darwin Awards"** Wendy Northcutt
9. **"Fast Food Nation"** Eric Schlosser
10. **"The Lost Boy"** Dave Pelzer

A fascinating, inventive look at how the angiosperms (the flowering plants) have prospered by seducing other creatures, including humans.

ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISC.

1. **"Rich Dad, Poor Dad"** Robert T. Kiyosaki with Sharon L. Lechter
2. **"Fix-It and Forget-It Cookbook"** Dawn J. Ranck and Phyllis Pellman Good
3. **"Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution"** Robert C. Atkins
4. **"What to Expect When You're Expecting"** Arlene Eisenberg, Heidi E. Murkoff and Sandee E. Hathaway
5. **"Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul"** compiled by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS

1. **"Oh, the Places You'll Go!"** Dr. Seuss
2. **"America"** Lynne Cheney and Robin Preiss Glasser
3. **"Giggle, Giggle, Quack"** Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin
4. **"Olivia"** Ian Falconer
5. **"The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders"** Jack Prelutsky and Petra Mathers
6. **"Spirit"** adapted by David Clement-Davies, illustrated by William Maughan
7. **"The Three Pigs"** David Wiesner
8. **"Olivia Saves the Circus"** Ian Falconer
9. **"Can You See What I See?"** Walter Wick
10. **"Daisy Comes Home"** Jan Brett

Rhymes about people and animals. (ages 5-8)

— New York Times; additional information by AJC staff

Kids' Corner

PICKS OF THE WEEK

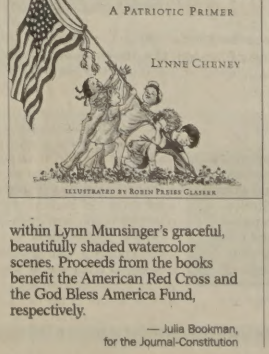
➤ **America: A Patriotic Primer.** By Lynne Cheney, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser. Simon & Schuster. $16.95. 38 pages. (all ages)

➤ **God Bless America.** Words and music by Irving Berlin; illustrated by Lynn Munsinger; performed by Barbra Streisand (CD included). HarperCollins. $16.95. 24 pages. (ages 3-7)

With her busy-tizzy, ABC picture book, "America: A Patriotic Primer," Lynne Cheney — wife of Vice President Dick Cheney — aims to teach youngsters a little something about a lot of things. Here, "B" is for the nation's birthday, "C" is for the Constitution and "D" is for the Declaration of Independence. Every page is chock-full of pleasant little watercolor-and-ink cartoons by Robin Preiss Glasser. On a double-page spread devoted to "E" (for equality) and "F" (for freedom and the flag), you'll find an "equality time line," the words to the Pledge of Allegiance and step-by-step instructions on how to fold a flag.

Lynn Munsinger

The mighty flag also flaps on the cover of "God Bless America," a book and CD of the classic 1938 Irving Berlin song that's enjoying renewed interest these days. The charming storybook follows a lovable bear family (not unlike the Berenstains) on a grand sightseeing trip, from the Space Needle in Seattle to the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, from the mountains and prairies to "the oceans white with foam." A quality of reverence abides within Lynn Munsinger's graceful, beautifully shaded watercolor scenes. Proceeds from the books benefit the American Red Cross and the God Bless America Fund, respectively.



— Julia Bookman, for the Journal-Constitution

FINISHING FEMINISM

"It was harder when people made fun of us, and they openly made fun of us in the '70s."

Happily, days of being ridiculed are history

Eleanor Smeal, 62, heads the Feminist Majority Foundation. She is a three-term president of the National Organization for Women and is a founder of the women's rights movement.

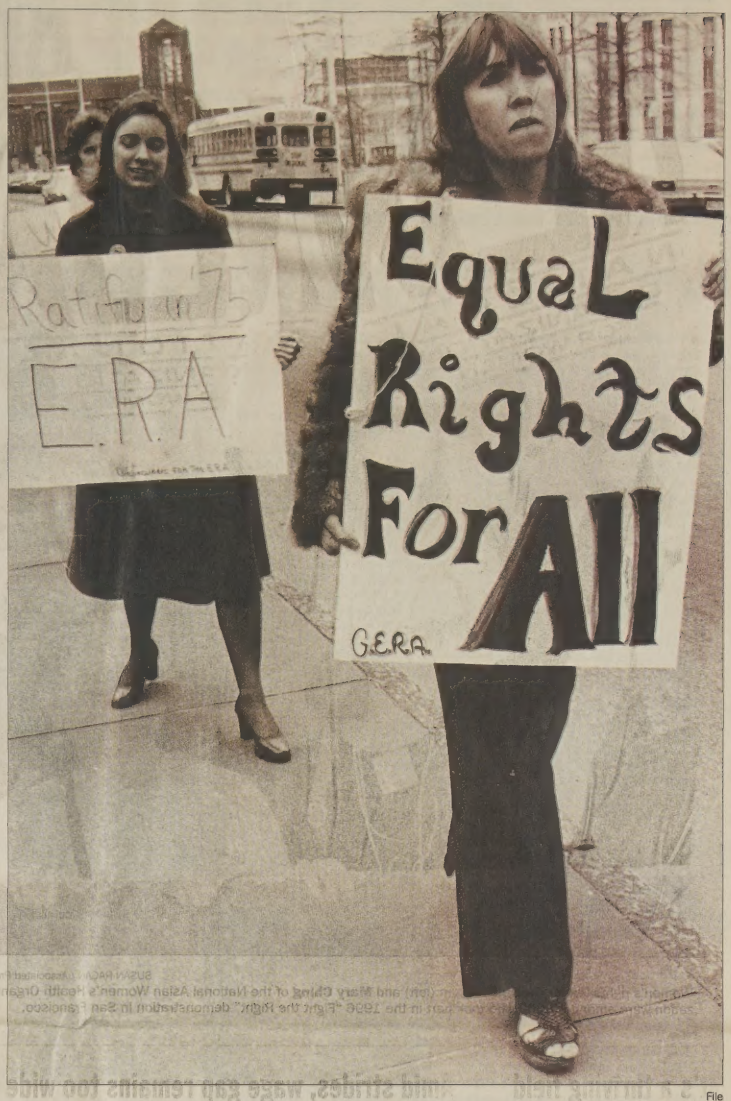
[The movement] is more joyous. This is hard work. It always was. It was harder when people made fun of us, and they openly made fun of us in the '70s. They used to laugh at us all the time. Ridicule was the weapon of choice. You know, are you wearing a bra? I can't remember how many times commentators on these shock-talk stupid things would say, "Are you wearing a bra? Are you a bra burner? Do you hate men?" I'm not asked those kinds of questions anymore.

. . . Feminism has gone global. We have women's centers and all kinds of resource organizations worldwide now. Women's studies is offered on more than 800 campuses. . . . You have feminist jurisprudence at all of the major law schools. In fact, you have something like 17 women's law journals. We never had anything like that before. I mean, you prayed that they got it, a little bit, about women's equality. Now you've got people teaching it everywhere from Harvard to Hastings College of Law at the University of California. It so permeates our culture.

You could say that the country has adopted feminism. If you look at young women, more than two-thirds are self-identified as feminists.

. . . Those of us who started on this trek, who were lucky enough to be there in the '60s and '70s, I don't think we could have imagined that we would be a global movement — real organizations, real work, real services, really changing the lives of women. Now, is it great? No. We still have terrible domestic violence. But now people at least know you have it. . . . People think domestic violence is a crime now. When we started, they thought it was a private matter. It is incredible, the difference.

. . . More people are willing to identify with it [the word feminist] than with the word Republican or Democrat or conservative or liberal. For all the demonizing of us, few people are willing to say they're anti-feminist. . . . Basically, the premise upon which we were arguing has been accepted by society.



File

Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution picket in front of the U.S. Capitol in 1975. The ERA fell three states short of ratification.

Feminism and race at odds, some say

Josephine Bradley is acting chair of the Africana Women's Studies Program and African and African-American Studies Program at Clark Atlanta University.

"I think it is alive and well. I think there are still issues that confront women and that women are still pursuing — perhaps not as aggressively as in the past — those issues, but I think they are still pursuing them. I'm thinking of issues like work and issues related to health. Especially for African and African-American women, issues about health are critical.

There is still the struggle over the issue of women of color and feminism itself. There has been this constant concern about whether feminism really addresses the issues and concerns that women of color have, and there is a whole question about whether or not the work by African-American women is feminism or womanism. Whereas womanism looks at the entire black community, including men, feminism looks at women's issues, not race, class and gender.

Tactics different, but effort is alive

Alison L. Murphy is a rising senior at Agnes Scott College. She is president of the student Conservative Forum.

When comparing feminism of the new millennium with the feminism of the 1960s, one tends to believe that a real feminist movement has vanished. This is not the case.

Though feminism — and women's attitudes toward feminism — have changed, the movement itself is still very much alive and thriving.

The 1960s were filled with women's rights protests, rallies and demonstrations, making feminists — and the need for equality between men and women — vividly apparent. Women such as Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem paved the way for women today. They fought hard, long and loudly, refusing to accept the standards of the time that were considered the norm.

Today, group efforts are not as prevalent as they once were. The 2000s include a more individual approach to one's own progression toward equality. Generally, a woman today worries about improving herself, about making it in a man's world by herself, and about being on top, with or without other women.

Feminism is not dead, nor will it ever die, but the benefits could be greatly increased with a wider "women" strategy instead of the current individual approach.

Movement doesn't represent mainstream

Lisa De Pasquale, 24, is program director of the Clare Boothe Luce Policy Institute, an organization dedicated to taking conservative ideas to young women and mentoring young women into effective leaders.

"Feminists have always put this gloom and doom scenario out."

The state of feminism is really that it doesn't speak for mainstream women.

Really you have to look at women's organizations that are out there saying they represent a woman's point of view. When you look at the things they are trying to get done — things like special rights for homosexuals, taxpayer-funded abortion, things like that — you can see that really they're speaking for liberal women and for leftist causes.

And when you look at the views of most women, you can see that they really do differ from the agenda of the majority of the feminist groups such as National Organization for Women, the Feminist Majority, groups like that.

Really, we are finding that far fewer women call themselves a feminist, and I think that right there tells you there's kind of a negative connotation to the word. A lot of people, when they think of feminists, all they remember are the bra-burners of the '60s. And that's not something that they want to align themselves with.

Feminists have always put this gloom and doom scenario out about how women can't succeed in a patriarchal society. A lot of women are looking at their own lives and finding that's not true,

and perhaps people my age are looking at their mother's life — for instance, my mother is a captain in the Navy, and I don't see any evidence of a glass ceiling and neither does she. So I don't think a lot of people are buying into this gloom and doom, you know, "all women are victims" world view.

A RECENT HISTORY OF FEMINISM

This timeline is drawn largely from the Feminist Majority's "Feminist Chronicles."

Simone de Beauvoir

1953
Simone de Beauvoir's "The Second Sex" is published in the United States. It introduces the term "women's liberation."

1956
Life magazine interviews five male psychiatrists who believe female ambition is the root of mental illness in wives, emotional upsets in husbands and homosexuality in boys.

1961
First oral contraceptive — "The Pill" — becomes available.

1963
"The Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan becomes a best seller.

1964
Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination in hiring on the basis of sex.

1966
28 women contributing $5 each create the National Organization for Women. Friedan is elected president.

1968
Women's groups demonstrating at the Miss America pageant are reported to be burning bras on the Atlantic City Boardwalk. Most historians and people present at the protest agree that the famous incident didn't actually take place.

Betty Friedan in 1996

1971
The House passes the Equal Rights Amendment by a vote of 350-15.

1972
The Senate passes the ERA 84-8. The amendment is sent to the states for ratification, which never comes.

Congress passes legislation including Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in schools that receive federal funds.

Ms. Magazine, with Gloria Steinem as editor, makes its debut.

Gloria Steinem in 2001

1973
In Roe v. Wade, Supreme Court rules that the decision to have a first-trimester abortion is between a woman and her doctor.

Helen Reddy's "I Am Woman" wins a Grammy award.

1978
Federal judge says women sports writers have a constitutional right to enter the New York Yankees locker room after a game to conduct interviews.

1982
Equal Rights Amendment falls three states short of ratification and dies.

Minnesota Supreme Court rules the state's Jaycees must accept women as full voting members.

Sally Ride

1983
Sally Ride becomes the first American woman to travel in space, on the shuttle Challenger.

FINISHING FEMINISM

SUSAN RAGAN / Associated Press

Women's rights leader **Gloria Steinem** (left) and **Mary Ching** of the National Asian Women's Health Organization were among 15,000 who took part in the 1996 "Fight the Right" demonstration in San Francisco.

It's a thriving field of university study

Patricia H. Miller is director of women's studies at the University of Georgia.

Feminist scholarship and teaching now are institutionalized. At the University of Georgia we are celebrating our 25th year of the women's studies program.

Feminist scholarship is thriving in universities — not only in women's studies departments but also across the disciplines, especially in the humanities. The most prestigious university presses regularly publish feminist scholarship. This definitely is one of the main intellectual movements in recent years.

Feminism is not only about women. More broadly, it provides a lens on the world to view the causes of, and effects of, power inequalities and oppression (due to gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality or physical ableness) on society and individuals.

Amid strides, wage gap remains too wide

Elizabeth Appley has been practicing law in Atlanta for 24 years, focusing on women's rights and lobbying for women's issues.

"Inequities impact much more harshly against working women."

While there has been significant progress in the way that people think about the role of women in society, and more readily accept basic notions about fairness and equality, there remain areas where the fight, even after 30 years, goes on. One of those areas, of course, is reproductive freedom. The other significant one is implementing economic justice for women and their families.

. . . Here we have this decade of unprecedented economic prosperity in this country where the gap between the wealthiest and the working family grew enormously. Enormously. Why is it that our fundamental notions about supply and demand didn't apply to wages, the same way that they applied to everything else? Why didn't wages keep pace? . . . Part of it has to do with the fact that the marketplace still seems to accept that market forces should prevail even if they systematically disadvantage workers and families. Even if it means that many workers, many hard-working families, where both parents are employed outside the home, are not earning enough to provide the basic necessities of life.

When you ask most people, they'll say they believe, if you're working a full-time job, you should earn enough to pay your bills, to live reasonably. These inequities impact much more harshly against working women than against working men. You know and I know that women are invariably the one removed from the workplace to meet the demands of child care, elder care, an ill family member, what have you. Overwhelmingly — in Georgia, it's two-thirds — the part-time and contingent jobs are held by women, and those are the jobs with no benefits and low pay and no opportunities for advancement.

In significant ways, barriers remain, and these are problems that require our attention.

"Feminism today continues to inform policy development, chipping away at institutional inequalities."

Many don't realize they hold this view

Mindy Stombler has a doctorate in sociology and lectures at Georgia State University.

Feminism today is about figuring out ways to have equality or social justice without ignoring the differences among women and between women and men. Feminists today are breaking down the idea that men are from Mars and women are from Venus.

Feminism today continues to point out how our society devalues traits associated with women and girls. My 2-year-old son was on the playground yesterday following a little girl up the slide ladder. Her young father turned to him and said "Sorry, girls are slow."

Feminism today continues to inform policy development, chipping away at institutional inequalities that prevent women and men from having fully realized lives. Until men and women can both work in the office and at raising children, if they choose, without derailing either venture, feminists will work for change.

Many younger women and men today do not realize that their ideas are feminist or based on feminist ideologies. . . . They believe women have achieved full equality — until they start trying to combine work and family successfully, or until someone reminds them of the number of women in the Senate or heading large corporations.

A time of reflection and reinvigoration

Mia Herndon is outreach coordinator for Third Wave Foundation in New York, a national activist philanthropic organization for young women age 15-30.

Feminism is in a transitional stage and yet growing all the time. But there are places where feminism is needing to think through the lessons of the past and correct some of the problem areas. That's where third wave feminism has come along in making sure that all the issues are addressed and that there is an intersection between feminism, class, race, gender, disability issues and sexual orientation issues.

There is a legacy of feminism, but we need to redefine it so it doesn't have all that baggage. The idea of feminism and the definition of it are constantly changing.

I'm talking to a lot of high school students, and a lot of them feel like the movement is gone, so we need to be reinvigorating the movement so they understand it hasn't ended.

The goal remains equal opportunity

Stephanie Davis is executive director of the Atlanta Women's Foundation.

The state of feminism today is that it has been incorporated into other movements and has become in some respects part of the status quo, with lots of challenges still remaining and many barriers to women's full equality in society — culturally, economically and politically.

It's been called the third wave of feminism. The "F" word, we call it.

Feminism has always just been about having choices and a voice, to make the decisions about your own future. And it's OK that younger women have not identified with the word.

I think what is important is that all women — no matter their race or class or geography — be able to have a future that presents every opportunity that a man has. And that is all feminism is, whether you are in Afghanistan or Atlanta.

The feminism I think of is the one that embodies inclusivity, multiculturalism and the ability to change the world through the humanity that women do bring. I think that if there were women in power in representative numbers — 52 percent — I think that the World Trade Center would still be standing. And that the world would look fundamentally different than it does. And in that regard, we have much left to do.

Radicals and NOW are on the decline

Phil Kent is president of the Southeastern Legal Foundation in Atlanta.

I think radical feminism is on the decline. Women naturally wanted equality under the law, but they want to retain their femininity in the 21st century.

As for the National Organization for Women, it's on the decline. In fact, its donations are down, and it had to rely on federal grants from the Clinton administration. Now that will be gone.

The failure of NOW to speak out against sexual harassment in the workplace during the Lewinsky controversy really hurt the organization. In fact, some chapters were very vocal about the failure of the national leadership to criticize what Clinton did with an employee in his charge.

A RECENT HISTORY OF FEMINISM

1984
Walter Mondale selects Geraldine Ferraro has his running mate — the first woman on a major-party presidential ticket.

Geraldine Ferraro

Anti-abortion bombers step up attacks nationwide. Planned Parenthood clinic in Marietta, which does not perform abortions, is fire-bombed.

1985
Emily's (Early Money Is Like Yeast) List, to raise early political money for Democratic pro-choice women candidates, is founded.

The anti-abortion video "The Silent Scream" is released.

1986
William Rehnquist is confirmed as chief justice and Antonin Scalia as associate justice.

Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) introduces the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1986.

1987
For the first time, first-year female residents in obstetrics and gynecology outnumber men.

1989
An article in the Harvard Business Review proposes the "Mommy Track."

1990
The Family and Medical Leave Act passes Congress. President Bush vetoes it.

The Senate Judiciary Committee reopens confirmation hearings on Clarence Thomas after allegations of sexual harassment by Anita Hill become public.

Anita Hill

"Thelma & Louise" hits a nerve with women, who make it a sleeper hit of the year.

1992
Dan Quayle criticizes the TV character Murphy Brown for "mocking the importance of fathers, by bearing a child alone, and calling it just another 'lifestyle choice.' "

1993
President Clinton's Cabinet includes more women than any Cabinet in history.

Clinton appoints feminist Ruth Bader Ginsburg to the Supreme Court.

Dr. David Gunn is shot three times in the back and killed outside an abortion clinic in Pensacola.

1996
Feminists credit Title IX with the success of U.S. women athletes at the Atlanta Olympics (19 gold medals, 10 silver, 9 bronze).

Madeleine Albright

1997
Madeleine Albright becomes the first female U.S. secretary of state.

Sara McLachlan at Lilith Fair

1998
The all-woman music festival Lilith Fair grosses $28.3 million, making it one of the most successful musical tours of the 1998 season.

FINISHING FEMINISM

Students are what they thought they were not

Charles Gallagher is an assistant sociology professor at Georgia State University.

In my Intro to Sociology class, which is a large class filled with traditional college-aged students, I ask them a simple question. I say "Raise your hand in the air if you would define yourself as a feminist." And in a class of 100 almost no one does. Only three or four people. And then I say to them, "OK, well, let me just ask you four simple questions. I want to see how many of you still have your hand raised in the end."

"Do you feel it is important that violence toward women is eradicated — that sexual violence toward women is addressed in society?" Almost everyone raises their hand.

"Do you believe that women should be paid the same salary as men for the same work — that is, equal pay for equal work?" And everyone says, "Absolutely, of course."

"How do you feel about equal opportunity? . . . Do you believe that being a CEO or being a president, that these jobs should be made available to women and that we should have efforts and make sure it happens?" People put their hands up, "Absolutely, equal opportunity is the bedrock of American society."

So of these three questions everyone raises their hand. Then I ask:

"Do you believe women should have the right to make their own reproductive choices? That is, to have a baby or not have a baby, and that it should be up to them and the state shouldn't dictate that?"

Almost everyone in that class of 100 raises their hand.

Then I say, "Well, if you raised your hand for all four of these, or three of these, then you are a feminist."

. . . I have two daughters, Sophia (3½ years old) and Talia (9 months old). It's important that they know that patriarchy is still the norm in the United States. Women have to be smarter. They need to be faster. Women need to have greater skills to navigate the world.

Successes have been assimilated into culture

Ali P. Crown has been director of Emory Women's Center since it was founded in 1992.

Feminism is thriving. We have women's studies, which have helped to develop a body of scholarship about feminism, but one does not need to be an intellectual or a scholar to appreciate the writing on women's issues. A walk through a bookstore tells you it's thriving.

My identity with the feminist movement started with a focus on the fight for reproductive rights. None of us sat around bashing men. We were too busy trying to change the world to make it a better place for women, which, by the way, makes it a better place for men and children, too.

Feminism is transforming. Think about Title IX, equal pay, family leave, awareness about violence against women and more. We're still not there, but we've raised the bar on many issues.

One reason you're not hearing a lot about feminism is because much of it has been has been assimilated into our culture. There are young women who go to Emory University now who don't realize that it was only in 1953 that Emory began admitting women to its undergraduate college.

Feminism is work. It took a lot of work to create all this change. And there is a lot more left to be done.

I'm no longer afraid to be called the 'F' word

Loretta Ross is founder and executive director of the National Center for Human Rights Education in Atlanta.

Well, I'm one of those people — proud to be a feminist kind of girl. Back in the 1970s I was the director of the very first rape crisis center in this country. So I kind of cut my social justice teeth on feminism. At the time, rape barely was seen as a crime. Victims were put on trial more often than the rapists. . . . That branded me like a branding iron so that I've always been part and parcel of the feminist movement.

But I'd been working in the field for about 12 years before I would use the "F" word on myself. I guess it's because I'm a black woman, but I used to be one of those people that would say, "I'm not a feminist, but . . ." because I was feeling somewhat defensive over the feminist word, and I thought that if I said I was a feminist that would mean I was no longer in solidarity with the black community or somehow I was selling out. . . . I remember the year exactly, it was 1985, when I said "OK, I can use the feminist word, the "F" word, and apply it to me and do it with pride."

I hear a lot of woman say, "I'm not a feminist, but ..." That's because we all have this stereotype of a feminist as a man-hating, bra-burning, thing-that-rhymes-with-witch that is trying to destroy everything. . . . We are all subject to that same kind of stereotype, even though all of us know better. I mean a feminist in my mind is simply someone — either a man or a woman — who wants to end the oppression of women and that's the simplest, clearest definition I can come up with.

That's what I know intellectually, but I also know I encountered that reaction when I told my boyfriend that I was a feminist. He drew back like I'd told him I had leprosy. I know the stigma is very much out there. I just think it's really a shame that so many people have the wrong idea about what feminism is all about. Any time a woman stands up for herself, they call her a feminist like it's a bad word.

Women still encounter barriers to success

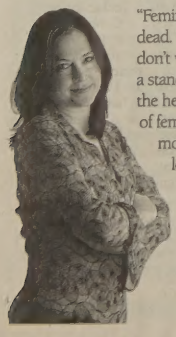
Ray Uttenhove is senior vice president of CB Richard Ellis Inc. and president of the board of the Atlanta Women's Foundation.

Feminism has empowered women to change the rules, and as a result, we have more wealth, political power and consumer clout than ever before. The challenge is that we are still learning how to wield this power. The issues that drove the feminist movement have not been solved. In disproportionate numbers, women still are encountering barriers to success. The Atlanta Women's Foundation is leveraging the collective power of women to bring about social change in the lives of women and girls. Whatever you call it today, that is feminism at work.

Woman to Woman

Feminism: Continue this conversation online at ajc.com/opinion/

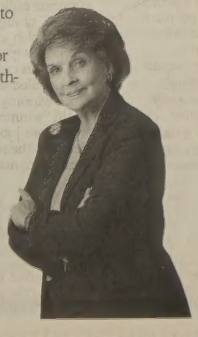
On the left, Diane Glass:



"Feminism isn't dead. Women just don't want to take a stand, and take the heat. The label of feminist is the modern scarlet letter."

On the right, Nancy Schaefer:

"Feminists seemed to be engrossed in destructive behavior like rejection of motherhood and sexual promiscuity. They were out to change human nature."



Go to **ajc.com/opinion/woman/** to read the full essays by Woman to Woman writers Diane Glass and Nancy Schaefer. You'll also find interactive tools and a discussion forum that invites you to join the conversation.

EARTHWEEK

By Steve Newman

Indian nuclear complaints

Farmers in India who live adjacent to the Pokharan military test range have reported an increased occurrence of mutated and blind cattle in the four years after India's nuclear testing at the facility. The cattle are believed to have been affected because they grazed near the fence that surrounds the test site in the scrub desert. Farmer Ranjeeta Ramji said his herd alone has produced four blind calves, none of which survived for more than a year, since the underground nuclear blasts. Other villagers have reported various birth defects in their animals.

Iranian lake disappears

Lake Hamun, a freshwater lake in Iran, has entirely dried up, according to a report by the country's official IRNA news agency. The disappearance of the lake is blamed on four consecutive years of drought and the decision by the former Taliban administration in neighboring Afghanistan to dam the flow of water on the Hirmand River. The lake was the habitat of 200,000 migratory birds, including flamingos, ducks, egrets and pelicans.

Congo volcanic gas

Mount Nyiragongo spewed plumes of gas from its crater near the eastern Congo town of Goma. Lava flows in January destroyed nearly 25 percent of the town in an eruptive phase that lasted for months. Volcanologists reassured residents that recent gas emissions are not likely to be followed by fresh lava flows.

Warming remolds Alaska

Parts of Alaska's terrain are cracking, sinking and breaking apart under the stress of global warming that has produced an average 7-degree Fahrenheit rise in temperature statewide during the past 30 years. The warming trend has prompted entire communities to contemplate moving inland as rising sea levels approach homes along the shore. Many residents in the state have resorted to using hydraulic jacks to keep their houses from collapsing as foundations, once braced by permafrost, have begun to buckle.

Monsoon disaster

More than 25,000 people in northeastern India have been stranded in monsoon flooding that has also forced endangered animals to leave a wildlife sanctuary. Thirty-five communities in Assam's district of Dhemaji were submerged. In the neighboring state of Meghalaya, 50 communities were cut off from the capital Shillong by what were said to be the worst landslides in the region's history. Fleeing elephants and rhinos were seen crossing a national highway that passes along the edge of the park. Forest guards have been dispatched to prevent poaching of the animals during the disaster migration.

Earthquakes

A wide area of South America, from Santiago, Chile, to the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires, was rocked by a magnitude 6.3 temblor centered about 250 miles north of Santiago.

A magnitude 5.0 earthquake centered in southern Indiana cracked chimneys and broke windows as the shaking was felt across six Midwestern states.

Earth movements were also felt in California, Nevada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Greece, Iran, Tasmania, the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, Taiwan and Tokyo.

Australian 'superdog'

Mating between Australian dingoes and domestic hunting dogs has produced a breed of "superdog" that is menacing outback farmers with livestock carnage that increases each year. Running in packs of up to 16, the "superdogs" not only attack livestock for food, but seem to kill for blood lust, according to some farmers. A Victoria sheep farmer forced off his farm by the marauding canines was awarded $108,000 in damages last year by a court that found the state negligent in controlling the animals. Sharman Stone, parliamentary secretary for the environment, believes the wild dogs need to be eliminated, but purebred dingoes should be preserved.

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LETTERS

Readers' quotes of the week

"Tom Murphy could be the ultimate 'poster child' for term limits."

— Peyton Lingle of Townsend, on the Georgia House speaker's decision to seek a 16th term.

"Satan doesn't have to do anything to incite hatred with leaders of the faith doing the job for him."

— Lisa Din of Snellville, responding to attacks on the Muslim faith by Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

"I-75 is not a NASCAR track."

— Kevin McKagueq of Detroit, after fighting Atlanta traffic on his way to Florida.

By the numbers **490:** Total reader responses this week **455:** E-mails this week **13:** responses on Arab-Americans

Tucker's attacks on McKinney lack merit

In her June 9 column ("GOP to blame for blacks' fear of the 'R' word"), Cynthia Tucker continues to misrepresent U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney's call for an investigation into intelligence failures before accepting the administration's unprecedented military spending increases under the guise of responding to Sept. 11.

What is most troubling is that the attacks by Tucker, the head editorialist of Atlanta's only daily metrowide newspaper, have become embarrassingly emotional and meanspirited.

Apparently, Tucker knows that the facts do not support her incessant attacks on the congresswoman so she reverts to name-calling, hurling words such as "wild and wacky," "loose cannon" and "outrageous rhetoric."

Finally, as if that isn't enough, Tucker finishes the job with her underlying message that McKinney and those who vote for her are somehow of lesser intellect than Tucker and her Harvard-educated friends.

Well, shoot, even I can see what is going on here.

ERIC HOVDESVEN
Atlanta

Leaders take away representation

I apologize if I'm a "Johnny-come-lately" in reacting to the final settlement of General Assembly reapportionment. Here are two discoveries I just made:

➤ In helping the local historical society write a grant for restoration of a school building on Old Atlanta Highway in Newnan, my wife needed to know the state Senate district for the building. After using the map service at georgia2000.net, the best I can tell her is this: If the building is about 700 feet north of the intersection with Howard Hughes Road, it is in District 30. If it is south of that point, it is in District 28. Having driven through that area, I believe it is entirely possible there will be Coweta County neighbors who are in different House districts!

➤ Curious about my personal situation, I checked out my address (about a mile from Newnan High School) and found that I am now in a district geographically dominated by Heard County — the 88th District blankets Heard, with a sliver of land extending up through Newnan and capturing my house. I believe that there are about five or six miles of Cowetans between my house and Heard County who are not in my district.

It is highly unlikely that my new brothers and sisters in Heard county share my concerns about the growth and development in Coweta County, our public schools, taxes, etc. You might say that our state House representative has little to do with those local issues, but if you believe that, you have not paid much attention to Georgia politics over the last few decades.

Our Democrat-controlled assembly, with the blessing of our Democrat governor, has basically taken away my constitutional representation in a last-ditch attempt to salvage its majority in the assembly. I will vote, in every assembly and statewide race this fall, for the Republican candidate, and hope and pray there are more folks like me out there.

J.K. FLOYD
Newnan

Pornography

Story served as promotional piece

Good call, Atlanta Journal-Constitution. On Father's Day, on the front page, you promote the "King of Porn."

Here we have a divorced man with a daughter living in New Jersey who, it is implied, has no contact with her biological father. A divorced man who now has a Russian bride/wife. A divorced man who has invaded a reasonably decent community and forced his undesirable business into a family area. If John Cornetta is so pleased with his empire, why doesn't he bring his daughter into the business? Maybe he would like her to participate in some of the videos and magazines he peddles.

[Reporter Doug] Nurse asked no pointed questions of Cornetta, and the only "official" he quotes is a state legislator who really has no control in such local affairs. Here are some ideas on how to practice true journalism: Ask Cornetta's biological daughter what she thinks. Ask her if she would like to become part of the "industry."

TODD STRIPLING
Norcross

Mother's rationalization doesn't hold water

Regarding John Cornetta, the unfortunate individual who plans to saturate Atlanta with porn, I have a couple of comments.

First, no teacher of any value would "hate" Cornetta. Hate is a very strong word.

Secondly, I am Roman Catholic. I have to question why this man has not been excommunicated since he so openly practices a lifestyle contrary to God's commandments.

I believe in forgiveness, but we need not make him our best friend and brother until he confesses from the heart and comes home to practice a Christian way of life.

Third, and most important: Cornetta's "mama" rationalizes it away with ease. "Someone has to do it," she says of his porn business. I thank God for the good parents and parenting I had. That's an easy statement for his mama to make. I suppose the bank robber's mama could say the same: "Someone has to do it."

THELMA HEYWOOD
Lawrenceville

Merchant strictly a small-time player

It is amazing to me that with the tens of thousands of entrepreneurs and emerging businesses in the Atlanta metropolitan area, the editors of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution believe that a man whose highest career aspiration is to sell skin magazines and blow-up dolls deserves page one coverage on the largest newspaper circulation day of the week ("The King of Porn," June 16).

For [John] Cornetta, who "lives for the fight," I hope he gets his wish a hundred times each day. His story, however, is neither compelling nor interesting. He is just another small-time player who will come and go like the wind because even vices eventually reach a bottom depth. His face now adorns the bottom of our pet cage, just like most of yesterday's news.

The true purveyor of the adage that "sex sells" in the Sunday paper was not Cornetta. It was the AJC.

ALLAN J. DENIRO
Atlanta

Adult establishments don't harm communities

Thank God for John Cornetta. It is great to see an individual with the courage to stand up for freedom of speech and capitalism.

Studies consistently show adult entertainment establishments create no negative secondary effects for communities. They actually decrease crime and increase property values. They employ many people and help increase tourism. They are good for communities.

Critics such as state Rep. Tom Rice (R-Norcross) are off base. Adult entertainment is a wonderful combination of sex and free enterprise. Which of those is Rice against?

DAVID CORR
Macon

Ill-advised placement

As a libertarian, I believe John Cornetta has a legal right to make his living as he does. I do, however, question the editorial judgment of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in deciding to run a free front page ad for this sexual purveyor.

Please, just ignore him. Those who really want him can find him without your help.

THOMAS R. SUKALAC
Mableton

Mentally ill inmates

DeKalb system could serve as a model for Fulton

What a travesty to lock up people who are mentally ill and have done nothing wrong except exhibit problems associated with their illness ("Jailing mentally ill strains dollars, sense," @Issue, June 16).

Overcrowding in the Fulton County Jail? Where are the community mental health programs and housing alternatives that were promised to these folks before the psychiatric hospitals were closed?

Since May 2001, DeKalb County has offered a mental health court program "model" for persons with mental illness and alcohol/drug issues who commit nonviolent misdemeanor offenses. This is a great start. Has anyone from Fulton looked to see how it might translate into the problems Fulton is now addressing?

Lack of humane care is the same all over the state and country. Why can't regions and state government work together to help these vulnerable people? This is a pitiful state of affairs, and taxpayers ought to be appalled.

MARTY LeDUKE
Ellenwood

Treatment better than incarceration

Your June 16 editorial was right on target. Jail cells are hardly ideal health interventions.

A study conducted by the Rand Corp. found that every additional dollar invested in substance abuse treatment saves taxpayers $7.46 in societal costs. Incarcerating nonviolent drug offenders alongside hardened criminals is the equivalent of providing them a taxpayer-funded education in criminal behavior.

Imagine if every alcoholic were thrown in jail and given a permanent criminal record. How many lives would be destroyed? How many families torn apart?

How many tax dollars would be wasted turning potentially productive members of society into unemployable ex-cons?

ROBERT SHARPE
Sharpe, of Arlington, Va., is program officer of the Drug Policy Alliance of Washington.

Capital punishment

Don't give citizens less than terrorists

How long will Americans stay strong when so many continually see one justice for the privileged and purported justice for the rest of us?

Most poor Americans, including Georgians, watch without surprise that terrorists committed to destroying America are appointed the most capable and committed of lawyers to defend their lives, while the poor are barely appointed the worst of lawyers to defend them.

Wallace Fugate, an American citizen, is scheduled to be executed soon. Fugate, like the 90 percent of other Georgians who cannot afford the $200,000 in legal expenses to defend himself in a death penalty case, got the worst of lawyers.

The sentencing phase of his case took less than 30 minutes. I suspect an outright lynching in the old days took longer.

Fugate, a carpenter with no prior criminal record, had an altercation with his ex-wife in which he shot and killed her. He immediately surrendered to authorities and steadfastly maintains the gun discharged accidentally.

Admittedly, he was as wrong as can be. However, the tragic events of this case do not warrant execution. Most district attorneys in Georgia apparently see it that way as well, since they do not seek the death penalty in similar cases.

The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles has the last say as to whether Fugate lives or dies. If its final answer is that he deserves execution; it says to Georgians and all other Americans that its citizens deserve less than a terrorist.

Americans will defend what they possess. I fear too many of us feel we possess little in terms of freedom and justice.

GARY PARKER
Lithonia

Fugate should get death penalty

Wallace Fugate, without a doubt, deserves the death penalty.

There are many items other than a gun that can be used to subdue or injure another person. If Fugate did not intend to kill his ex-wife, he shouldn't have brought a gun. It was his decision and his responsibility for the consequences. He shot her dead after beating her with the gun.

The gun went off because he had his finger on the trigger and she died because the gun was next to her head. End of story. No accident, no excuses.

JOHN LANGSTON
Rex

Death penalty should be abolished

Because I am the family member of a recently executed inmate, I feel I must respond to the question of execution.

My family member spent 25 years on death row and was then executed. In no way was he the same man sentenced in 1977.

Execution does not punish the inmate — it punishes his or her family. The inmate is finally free. He knows no more pain, no more isolation, no more torture from the crime he committed. His family, on the other hand, lives with years of sadness and grief for the criminal act and the victim's family, grief for the loved one whose life was destroyed by taking another life, financial hardship and the pain of visitation but always hoping for commutation to a life sentence.

Why force good human beings (prison officials) to kill another human being, leaving them with the nightmare of taking life — not once but many times? It must stop. Please search your souls and support the abolishment of the death penalty. We cannot afford to kill more people, either morally or financially.

PATRICIA SEABORN
Martinez

Whining Wooten ignores numbers

It's getting funnier and funnier, the way whiny-pants columnist Jim Wooten gets the heebie-jeebies over the Democrats, better known to him as those mean ol' "liberals."

He keeps alleging there's a one-party political system in Georgia, but if you count the number of Republicans in the state House and Senate, you'll find a whole mess of them. And, Mr. Whiny-Pants keeps ignoring the fact that eight of Georgia's 11 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are Republicans.

What Mr. Whiny-Pants really seems to want is a one-party Republican system, both in Georgia and in the Congress.

Put such whiny-pants, fuddy-duddy columnists where they belong — on the comic page.

SAM HOPKINS
Big Canoe

Bush earned respect

The time has come for those who don't approve of President Bush to stop whining and to discontinue calling him "Dubya" or "dumb" or any other discourteous name. I also ask that political cartoonists stop drawing exaggerated ears on his caricature. This man has handled several serious events since winning the election — yes, I said "winning" — and done a marvelous job with each. He deserves the respect of every American, not ridicule.

FRANK PARHAM
Douglasville

Change of sites would add to expression

What a great gift for Atlanta of a new Symphony Hall designed by Santiago Calatrava. But wait: How will a tour de force building achieve its manifest destiny nestled onto a site with barely an opportunity for a glimpse as we head down 14th Street? Calatrava's assessment of the site makes the most of a tough assignment — well said.

It's not too late, though. Given that the benefactors of the symphony and aquarium have collaborated for so long in business, might they not now acknowledge the better alignment of Calatrava's inspiration in biomorphic structure with the mission and purpose of an aquarium to be located on a site with far more potential for visibility and presence?

It's not too late — the foundations are not yet poured — let's swap the aquarium commission and provide Calatrava a site and function perfectly suited to his demonstrated propensity for inspirational expression.

SCOTT LEVITAN
Atlanta

Rights were sacrificed

I commend Cynthia Tucker for her column "Advice to feds: Come clean on 'dirty bomb' " (@issue, June 16). It puts a question mark on the reliability of our intelligence agencies. I was surprised to know that Jose Padilla was arrested on May 8 but that the news made headlines on June 10 during the middle of congressional hearings. Whatever happened to "innocent until proven guilty" and the basic constitutional rights of the people?

NAFEES SYED
Atlanta

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OUR OPINION

CYNTHIA TUCKER
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Drug war's end could provide anti-terror ammo

There is little good news from the anti-terror front these days.

The whereabouts of Osama bin Laden are still unknown; the entrenched Washington bureaucracy is fighting the new proposal for a Cabinet-level homeland defense department; and al-Qaida has regrouped to foment jihad in Kashmir, the area hotly contested by two new nuclear powers, India and Pakistan.

In other words, world affairs remain depressing.

Still, there was this small notice mixed in with recent news about reorganizing and retooling the FBI: The agency will scale back its efforts in the so-called war on drugs. It comes as a relief — a bit of good news — that the FBI has shifted its priorities away from corner crackheads and petty methamphetamine dealers. With terrorists threatening to explode dirty bombs, spread smallpox and put cyanide in the water supply, it seems silly for a major law enforcement agency to expend its precious resources hunting down drug offenders.

The so-called war on drugs, which always amounted to a war on drug users, has long been a form of official terrorism — an overzealous but unimaginative effort to stop irresponsible Americans from abusing their own bodies. Much like Prohibition, the war on drugs has created more problems than it has solved, incarcerating hundreds of thousands of nonviolent Americans and guaranteeing a black market, which, in turn, has sparked an epidemic of violence.

Had there not been hefty profits in selling banned substances, drug gangs would not have sprung up to sell them and to war with each other as they fought over turf. Similarly, there would be no South American cocaine cartels, which have earned enough profits from narco-trafficking to purchase armies to destabilize their native lands.

This seems as good a time as any for the White House and Congress to quietly end the war on drugs. There is no great enthusiasm for it among average American voters. Why not go ahead and quietly ease back from a 40-year "war" that the nation has no chance of winning?

While it would be politically risky for any formal announcement of retrenchment — and even riskier to legalize banned substances — the war on terror provides plenty of cover for scaling back. For one thing, billions more will be needed to safeguard American soil from terrorists. What better place to get it than from the money set aside for punitive anti-drug efforts — from police raids to prison beds? The entire budget of the Drug Enforcement Administration, which has grown from $65 million in 1972 to $1.8 billion this year, could be shifted to homeland defense.

With the nation's federal law enforcement agencies concentrating on terrorism, the abuse of illegal narcotics could be confronted logically — as a public health problem. If America made a serious commitment to drug treatment and rehabilitation, rather than incarceration, our streets might actually be safer. The violence of the drug war has largely been an unintended consequence of the law enforcement effort to squelch drug sales. (Again, see Prohibition.)

That's not to say that major drug cartels would disappear if police stopped going after petty drug dealers. As long as there is money to be made from illegal drugs, criminal enterprises will hang around to reap the profits. The biggest and most dangerous of those criminal enterprises should always be in the gun sights of law enforcement officials.

But shifting money from the drug war to the war on terror will also interrupt some of those drug cartels. As the U.S. Customs Service tightens borders to stop Islamist terrorists, inspecting packages, trucks, trains and container ships, it will inevitably stop more shipments of illegal drugs. So why not beef up Customs with money from the DEA?

After more than 40 years of trying to stop Americans from using illegal narcotics — wasting billions of dollars and countless lives in the process — U.S. politicians and policy-makers ought to be ready for a new strategy. The war on terror has brought precious few blessings, but the opportunity to back away from the war on drugs is one.

Cynthia Tucker is the editorial page editor. Her column appears Sundays and Wednesdays.

Only the first step for Fulton courts

EDITORIAL

Fulton County's new best friend is U.S. District Court Judge Marvin Shoob, who presides over a jail overcrowcding case in federal court.

Embarrassing as it is, Shoob has opened the closet doors on a dismaying array of horrors in the county's bureaucracy that have kept hundreds of people charged with minor crimes locked in the overcrowded county jail, violating the U.S. Constitution, destroying lives and costing taxpayers a fortune.

The fault lines in the county's system go much deeper than just the jail, however. Shoob's far-reaching orders have shaken up the whole county court system.

At last.

This case gives Fulton County a long-overdue impetus to prioritize its spending and focus on things that can keep people out of jail — drug and mental health treatment, housing and a court system that actually works — rather than pouring more dollars into keeping them locked up. It will also force the county to demand accountability from all departments involved, chief among them the Fulton Solicitor General's office, which has been consistently recalcitrant in filing timely accusations against people arrested for misdemeanors, forcing them to sit in jail awaiting a formal charge.

The county will save money in the long run. And more people will be given a chance to be productive citizens, rather than have fragile support systems shattered by an unnecessary weeks- or months-long stay in jail.

Of course, this will require the County Commission and county manager to read the writing on the wall: A thorough re-evaluation is required of where money is spent, vs. the outcomes desired. Shoob's orders, which must be obeyed, help by making the priorities clear. The commission can either go ahead and make the changes he's ordering and get the results, or it can dither around and delay, lose money — and have to make the changes anyway.

"No system I've seen is as hopelessly messed up as this one."

— Steven Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights

"No system I've seen is as hopelessly messed up as this one," said Steven Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, which represents the inmates in the jail overcrowding suit. "All these petty jealousies and politics — it's really embarrassing." According to Bright, misdemeanor courts in much larger jurisdictions such as New York City, Washington and Boston have court systems that bring arrested people before a judge immediately, give them lawyers who stay with them throughout their cases and dispose of most cases within a few hours, rather than weeks or months, as has been the case in Fulton.

An equally frustrated Chief Judge A.L. Thompson has made a deal with Harvard's Criminal Justice Institute to come to Atlanta to assess the Fulton State Court and draw up a model system. Then, hopes Thompson, the county will fund the changes needed to make Fulton's court into "a model for the state and the nation."

In the meantime, Thompson has responded to revelations out of the lawsuit by making some quick fixes of his own. First, rather than waiting for the solicitor to file charges before a court date is set, he ordered that a court date be set and the solicitor notified that any case without timely charges on that date will be dismissed.

He also ordered, just a few days ago, that jail inmates be assigned a lawyer and brought before a judge within four days, soon to be shortened to three. If the paperwork isn't ready, the case will be dismissed. (That length of time was shortened from two weeks, imposed a few weeks ago. Previously, some inmates had gone months without seeing a lawyer or a judge or being formally charged with a crime.)

And in response to Shoob's order that any inmates be released who have been sitting in the county jail longer than the jail time they might have been sentenced to if they were convicted, Thompson has released more than 230 people.

He also contracted with a group of lawyers to serve as public defenders in misdemeanor cases, which had never been done before, and set up a system of "all-purpose hearings," running twice a day, to process misdemeanor cases faster.

He is looking at some other quick and inexpensive solutions, such as putting a courtroom in a trailer in the jailyard where cases can be processed quickly, using the "complaint room" at the courthouse for the same purpose, or naming a desk sergeant at the jail who can separate the minor cases from the major ones and dispose of the minor ones himself. All three are being held up by silly bureaucratic tangles.

All of these things are good first steps — or attempts at them — to solve the immediate problem of crowding at the jail. But a much deeper reform is necessary to address the most basic problems: the county's failure to keep its own house clean, its systems working and its dollars getting the most bang for the buck.

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Arc's critics get personal with attacks

Twenty years ago, Dr. John Koza, chairman and one of the founders of Scientific Games Inc., sold his company. He invested part of the proceeds in 1,000 acres on all four corners of I-575 and Ga. 20 at Canton.

That interchange, located 2.8 miles south of one proposed route for the Northern Arc and 3.9 miles south of another, represents an alleged conflict of interest affecting the chairman of the board of the Georgia Department of Transportation, William G. Hasty Sr. of Canton. The connection is this:

Hasty's son, William G. Hasty Jr., is a lawyer who managed the real estate transactions around the interchange for Koza, now a consulting professor at Stanford University in California. Koza, considered the father of genetic programming (getting computers to solve problems without specifically programming them), left Atlanta shortly after Scientific Games was sold to Bally Manufacturing Co. It designed computer systems for state lotteries and printed scratch-off lottery tickets.

He intended to return, but later changed his mind. While in California, Koza's prior interest in how to get computers to write their own programs crystallized. He has since written four books on genetic programming and he has extensive business interests related to his academic research, including a venture capital firm.

The point is that even a substantial investment, such as four corners of an interstate highway, has not been among Koza's abiding interests.

Looking at the four corners confirms that. A great deal of potential money appears to have been left on the table. On one corner, for example, Koza sold the choicest parcel for a public library and Hasty Jr. developed another with 19 residential lots on 54 acres — hardly a savvy investment decision for somebody speculating on the Northern Arc.

Even dumber, had Northern Arc land speculation been the intent, the subdivision was built in the path of a nonexistent road that allegedly was to connect the Northern Arc to 278 acres owned by William Hasty Jr.

Confused? You're not alone. Arc opponents have concocted a fantastic theory that greedy developers and land speculators want the parkway built to line their pockets. Any supporter who owns property within commuting distance is a potential target, regardless of whether the property would actually be improved. Without access, it's just a nuisance. Koza, in fact, thinks the Arc would be a detriment to the I-575 interchange land value.

Targeting individuals who favor the road and suggesting that they're to be enriched by its construction is a tactic to kill the Northern Arc.

Koza no longer owns property here. In 1982, when he bought land, he sold 2.4 acres to William Hasty Jr. The Hastys built a home deep into what is now the 278 acres on the southeast corner of the interchange.

Koza decided not to return from California and sold Hasty the 278 acres, plus a few remaining tracts, including in 1998 the 54-acre tract that Hasty developed as a subdivision.

One of the people who lives in the subdivision is William G. Hasty Sr., the chairman of the DOT board, who would — if the conspiracy theories are true — sacrifice his personal home to his son's Northern Arc strategy. Absurd? A thousand times so.

If you live in a county where a major road is proposed, you can be a dot on a map as a landowner who stands to benefit. Leonard A. Moody, president of Georgia Real Estate Evaluation Services Inc., who has appraised all of the property around the interchange, says flatly: "The proposed Northern Arc was not given any weight in determining a fair-market value . . . it is too speculative and too far away . . . to be considered."

Jim Wooten is associate editorial page editor. His column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

Quotes of the week

"As soon as I find the right plane, I'm buying it."

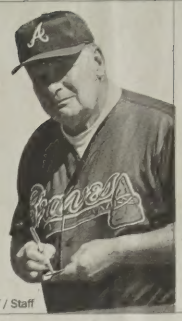
— Joel Foy, a pilot who has decided to commute by air from Peachtree City to Lawrenceville.

"This is a very dangerous vaccine. It is not something you would like to see in really widespread use unless the need was really desperate."

— State epidemiologist Dr. Paul Blake, reacting to a recommendation that smallpox vaccinations be limited to about 20,000 medical investigators and hospital workers.

"It's like Yogi used to say . . . I can't remember what Yogi said."

— Manager Bobby Cox (right), after the Braves came from behind in the ninth to beat Detroit 3-2.



BEN GRAY / Staff

"Today our society views mentally retarded offenders as categorically less culpable than the average criminal."

— Justice John Paul Stevens writing for the majority on a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that mentally retarded murderers may not be executed.

"Seldom has an opinion of this Court rested so obviously upon nothing but the personal views of its members."

— Justice Antonin Scalia in dissent.

"People were dirty. People were not taking showers. You think this was glamorous. It was not. It was smelly."

— The Washington Post's Bob Woodward, in a conference on the 30th anniversary of the Watergate break-in.

OTHER OPINION

Iranian clerics squeezed between rhetoric, reality

THOMAS FRIEDMAN

is a New York Times columnist. His column appears Sundays and Wednesdays.

Tehran, Iran — The most striking thing about Iran today is the honesty you can find in the newspapers. Some mornings, they take your breath away. Consider the mainstream paper Entekhab, which ran a long piece the other day, headlined "Skyrocketing Figures," that ticked off the following statistics: There are now 84,000 prostitutes operating on the streets of Tehran and 250 brothels, including some linked to high officials. There are 60 new runaway girls hitting Tehran's streets every day — a 12 percent increase over last year. Forty percent of all drug-addicted women in Iranian prisons have AIDS. Two sisters, ages 16 and 17, recently gave AIDS to 1,100 people in a two-month period. Four million youths under the age of 20 suffer from depression. Unemployment (which is already around 30 percent) is steadily rising.

> A recent poll of Tehran residents found only 6.2 percent support the status quo. The rest were split about evenly between wanting "reform" and "fundamental change."

All these problems are symptoms of a floundering economy, or, as the newspaper Iran News baldly put it two weeks ago: "The nation's entire economic structure is fundamentally bankrupt and in desperate need of urgent and sweeping reforms. Some of the graver and more prominent problems include lack of sufficient foreign investment, mismanagement in all tiers of our economic system, political isolation leading to [a] deteriorating economic situation, atrocious unemployment [and] high inflation."

This deterioration is not primarily the result of U.S. sanctions. Iran has plenty of oil wealth and can buy anything from Europe or the black market. It is primarily the result of mismanagement by Iran's theocratic rulers — their corruption, incompetence, arbitrary decisions, religious legal codes and anti-globalization instincts. Which is why the biggest internal drama playing out in Iran today is this: Will the ayatollahs peacefully reform their system, or will it explode beneath their feet from social unrest?

In a poll published by the Noruz newspaper last month, 6.2 percent of those surveyed in Tehran said they were satisfied with the current state of affairs, 48.9 percent favored "reform" and 44.9 percent favored "fundamental change."

The problem for Iran's ruling clerics is that they cannot provide enough new jobs without privatizing their state-dominated economy and attracting foreign investment. And they cannot reform the economy and attract foreign investors, who will bring new technology and new markets, without reforming every pillar of their ruling system.

This system includes vast monopolies awarded to their allies — the bazaar merchants, clerics and children of the clergy — as well as Islamic charities that serve as front organizations for huge business conglomerates that pay no taxes and import everything from cigarettes to cars duty-free. Iran also can't attract investors, particularly for industry, without some transparent rule of law, which means curbing the arbitrary rule of the Guardian Council of clerics and the judges they appoint, who sit atop the system dominating the courts and parliament.

The Islamic revolution urbanized millions of rural Iranians and made them real citizens, in a way the Shah never did. "Now they have education, roads, transports and health facilities," said the manager of an auto parts company. "Sixty percent of university students today are girls. But now these new citizens are looking for a citizens' regime, not a rural regime. A citizens' regime is a secular government, which respects the religion of the people but also the rights of the people."

For the moment, the ruling clerics have enough oil money — and enough support in the rural areas, in their seminaries and in the bazaar — to stay on top. But given Iran's soaring population — there were 30 million Iranians when the Shah left 23 years ago, and there are 66 million today, with 70 percent under age 30 — something will have to give if Iran hopes to create enough jobs.

"The establishment has two choices," said opposition economist Rahim Oskui, "but they have the same result: Either the establishment will resist international and national changes — in that case it will crash — or it will become flexible and adapt. But in that case it cannot remain what it is now. . . . [My feeling is] the clergy will reach the conclusion that they will have to secularize the system in order to survive, but this will take time. . . . All our modern revolutions came from inside the country, and given the level of demands inside the society today, a backward establishment like we have now cannot resist these forces forever — provided there is no outside interference."

Campaign rules chill free speech

GEORGE WILL

writes from Washington. His column appears Sundays.

When the history of today's liberalism is written, the writers may marvel at that political persuasion's remarkable reversal of convictions regarding persuasion. Nothing more tellingly illuminates the contemporary liberal mind than the retreat from the defense of First Amendment guarantees of free speech.

This year's enactment of yet more campaign finance regulations expands government restrictions on the quantity of political speech.

Perhaps emboldened by the liberal media's enthusiasm for campaign regulations, other would-be speech regulators have brought two lawsuits that suggest the future direction of liberal attempts to shrink First Amendment protections.

The Michigan Education Association, a teachers union, is suing the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a free-market think tank, charging that the center "misappropriated" the "likeness" of the MEA's president when it quoted him in a fund-raising letter. MEA's president, announcing establishment of a think tank whose mission would be partly to counter the center's research and policy work, said, "Quite frankly, I admire what they have done."

When the center quoted this, supplying the center's name for the pronoun, the MEA filed suit, demanding to be given the center's mailing list, and that it be given all funds contributed in response to the fund-raising letter. It also demanded that a permanent gag order be imposed to forbid the center from referring to MEA officials in future fund-raising letters. Welcome to the brave new world of speech regulation in Year One, A.M.F. — anno McCain-Feingold.

One aim in passing that campaign regulation was to restrict when and how issue advocacy groups can run any ad that "refers" to a political candidate. In the same spirit, the MEA is asserting that a nonprofit public policy group must get an opponent's permission before quoting them.

The center, assisted by the Institute for Justice, a Washington-based public interest organization of libertarian bent, will easily defeat the MEA's frivolous claim of "misappropriation." A real example of that offense would be Coca-Cola using advertising featuring, without Michael Jordan's permission, a picture of him drinking a Coke. But Jordan drinking a Coke is not a newsworthy public event. The MEA's president speaking at a press conference is, and people may report it without being sued.

Furthermore, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that fund-raising appeals by public interest organizations are not unprotected commercial speech. They enjoy full First Amendment protection because "solicitation is characteristically intertwined with informative and perhaps persuasive speech."

Another attempt to abridge First Amendment protections is being mounted by critics of Nike's overseas labor policies. Nike responded to criticism by changing some policies but defending others in advertisements, press releases and letters to newspapers and athletic directors. Critics sued, saying that some Nike statements were false — and were commercial speech punishable under the law proscribing false "advertising." California's Supreme Court sided 4-3 with the critics, saying: "Speech is commercial if its content is likely to influence consumers," and some consumers are concerned about labor practices.

But the U.S. Supreme Court may side with the dissenters. They, and the American Civil Liberties Union, reject the idea that there should be asymmetrical protections of different sides in public issue debates. That is, they reject the doctrine that because a business' self-defense may have the incidental effect of helping it sell its product, the business' self-defense is commercial speech and hence, unlike the speech of its critics, can be regulated — and can provoke lawsuits.

This doctrine will have a chilling effect on debate, pressuring businesses to forgo self-defense in order to avoid the threat of lawsuits. Thus do liberals continue to constrict public debate to further their purposes.

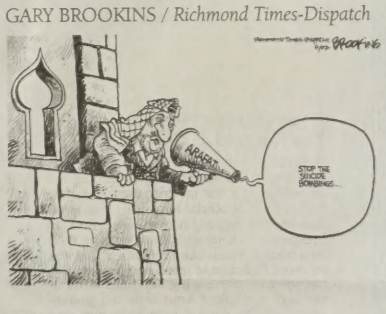
When the history of today's liberalism is written, the writers may . . . tread lightly. Otherwise, they may be sued by liberals demanding subordination of the historians' rights of freedom of expression to some greater social good that supposedly would be impaired unless the historians' speech is regulated.

You say it can't happen here? Notice what already is happening.

CARTOONS OF THE WEEK

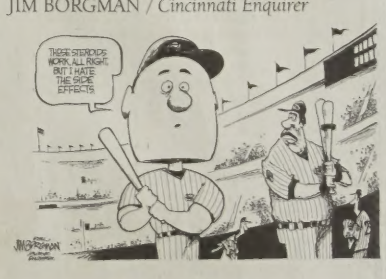
BOB GORRELL / *Creators Syndicate*

GARY BROOKINS / *Richmond Times-Dispatch*



KEVIN SIERS / *Charlotte Observer*

JIM BORGMAN / *Cincinnati Enquirer*



TOM TOLES / *Buffalo News*

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